Israel, PLO sign accord

The Canadian Jewish News

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Historic ceremony: Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin flanked at Monday's White House ceremomy by U.S.President Bill Clinton and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat while (below) Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres signs the document that recognizes the PLO. [Photos from CBC Newsworld].

A new year, A new peace

As Jews everywhere gather this week to mark the New Year, a new era of peaceful co-existence between Israel and Palestinians has dawned, but one fraught with new dangers and difficulties.

The pens of Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Palestine Liberation Organization lieutenant Mahmoud Abbas made history Monday when they touched the documents outlining mutual recognition and the laying down of arms between Israel and the PLO — papers that could end decades of bloodshed and hatred in the Middle East.

In events that seemed unimaginable only a few weeks ago, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat shook hands on the White House lawn, with an ebullient U.S. President Bill Clinton looking on. It was a formal gesture, but like the agreement, it was a beginning.

In a ceremony seen around the world, the leaders of two longstanding enemies vowed to beat their swords into ploughshares and embark on a new beginning of neighborly relations and mutual cooperation.

Arafat, in kaffiyeh and army dress uniform but without the holstered pistol he wore as he set off for Washington, and Rabin, the old soldier now playing the statesman's role, traded hopes for a peaceful future.

Pointing to the onset of Rosh Hashanah, Rabin said "I believe, I hope, I pray that a new year will bring a message of redemption for all peoples ... a good year for Israelis and Palestinians. A good year for all the people of the Middle East."

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Clinton, who described the protaganists as the descendents of the Biblical figures Isaac and Ishmael, also noted that "just as the Jewish people this week celebrate the dawn of a new year, let us all go from this place to celebrate the dawn of a new era, not only for the Middle East, but for the entire world.

"The sounds we heard today once again as in ancient Jericho were of trumpets toppling walls — the walls of anger and suspicion between Israeli and Palestinian, between Arab and Jew. This time, praise God, the trumpets herald not the destruction of that city, but its new beginning."

Arafat, until a few weeks ago a pariah to much of the Western world, called the agreement "the beginning of the end of a chapter of pain and suffering that has lasted throughout the century. My people are hoping that this agreement will usher in an age of peace, co-existence and equal rights."

But, injecting a measure of caution, Rabin said the deal "is not so easy, neither for myself as a soldier in Israel's wars, nor for the people of Israel, nor for the Jewish people in the Diaspora who are watching us now with great hope mixed with apprehension.

"It is certainly not easy for the families of the victims of the wars, violence, terror, whose pain will never heal; for the many thousands who defended our lives with their own and even sacrificed their lives. For them, this ceremony has come too late.

[Cont'd. on page 10]

The directors and staff of
The Canadian Jewish News
wish all our readers
a happy, healthy
and prosperous new year.
שנה טובה

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Canada

JEWS IN A CHANGING WORLD

Minority Relations

CJN reporters Paul Lungen and Ben Rose take a look at relations between Jews and other minority groups. Second of a two-part series.

By BEN ROSE

TORONTO — Black-Jewish relations in Toronto appeared to be going well until *Showboat* sailed into view. Now there are some troubling questions.

"It's a bump on the road, we'll overcome it," said Bernie Farber, national director of community relations, Canadian Jewish Congress.

The Coalition to Stop *Showboat*, which pickets the musical's box office every Saturday at noon, asked the Congress to support cancellation of the show but Congress refused. Such a step would be counter to its policy of education, rather than suppression of negative theatre performances, Farber explained. At the same time, it acknowledged the pain which *Showboat* causes blacks who say it denigrates them.

Farber said the CJC policy is to ask for workshops and educational materials when a controversial play such as *Merchant of Venice* is staged, but not to ask for its cancellation.

This approach did not satisfy the Coalition to Stop *Showboat*, Farber said, and the two sides agreed to disagree on their strategies.

In their meetings with the Coalition, Farber said the Congress made clear that it would not brook any charges against the Jewish community because the authors and local producer of *Showboat* are Jewish.

At a marathon meeting between the Coalition and Congress, Coalition representatives condemned anti-Semitic statements made by some blacks on the *Showboat* issue, Farber said.

Showboat is scheduled as the opening presentation of the new $8 million North York Performing Arts Centre. Previews of the show begin Oct. 5 and the official opening is Oct. 17.

Blacks have also complained that *Showboat* was an unwise choice to open a centre supported in part by black taxpayers in North York.

John O'Neal and Naomi Newman in Crossing the Broken Bridge.

it will be a good one or a bad one I don't know," Mercury said. He added that "the extremists and the militants" in the black community taking a strong line against *Showboat* have the "covert support" of many blacks who do not want to speak out publicly.

Mercury said he was aware that certain rabbis are meeting with black pastors over *Showboat* but cautioned that the black ministers in Canada do not have the experience of fighting for civil rights like their counterparts in the southern United States' and not too much should be expected from this tack.

An umbrella group is being formed in the black community, he said, and once the controversy over *Showboat* dies down this group will be in a position to deal meaningfully with black-Jewish relations.

Record of working together

* * *

Until the storm over *Showboat*, the two communities had a record of working positively together over the *Arayanfest* at Minden, Ontario, in 1989, and on the issue of the shootings by police of black men and youths. Every year for the past five years, off-the-record dialogues have been held at the Lipa Green Centre between blacks and Jews who are high profile in both communities, Farber said..

Even in the wake of *Showboat*, the Congress and the Black Professional and Business Association have agreed to take joint action against the neo-Nazi Heritage Front, and a planning meeting will soon be held.

However, Al Mercury, a black volunteer with the North York Race Relations Committee, believes black-Jewish relations are "on hold" until the *Showboat* issue is resolved.

"*Showboat* is going to have an impact; whether

Ethnic co-operation

see page 6

* * *

The issue of Jewish writers and composers appropriating black culture is one of the complaints raised by black artists in Toronto. *Showboat* was based on a book written by Edna Ferber with the lyrics by Jerome Kern and music by Oscar Hammerstein, II.

This point of contention is one of many conflicts dealt with in an unusual play *Crossing Broken Bridges* performed by Naomi Newman of the Travelling Jewish Theatre, San Francisco, and John O'Neil of Junebug Productions, New Orleans.

This two-hander, performed with so few props they fit into a single suitcase, is an attempt to get audiences of blacks and Jews to think about the issues which divide them, and to talk with the actors afterwards. So far it has played in about 20 U.S. cities and embarks on another U.S. tour in October.

"I think our play may help the situation in Toronto," Newman told *The CJN*. "Of course we don't have any solutions."

When the cultural appropriation issue comes up, Newman said O'Neil, a black, asks why Jews are writing about black history, and Newman replies, "Who says Jews haven't got the right to write about blacks?"

Newman does a monologue by a woman who travels to North America in the hold of a slave ship and O'Neil does one on a man whose family is about to be loaded on a train for Auschwitz.

At one point in the play, O'Neil says, "You've got to watch those Jews, they're liable to turn white at any time."

Newman says *Crossing Broken Bridges* has never played in a city during or on the heels of any tense situation such as *Showboat* in Toronto. However, the tour starting soon includes a stop in Brooklyn, locale of the black-Chassidic confrontation in Crown Heights.

Newman said racism is practised by Jews as well as blacks and one of the things which worries her is that Jews are moving further and further into the suburbs and losing their "connections with things at the centre."

She agreed that there is a "greater urgency" to black-Jewish relations now than when she and O'Neil first started to work on *Crossing Broken Bridges* in 1990. The play took two years of writing and rehearsals before going public.

* * *

A positive development in black-Jewish relations this summer was a camp attended by 120 children, ages 8 to 11, more than half of them black, who heard Jewish teen-agers sing Jewish songs and explain Jewish customs.

The project, held at the Scout camp south of Aurora, was sponsored by the North York Committee on Community, Race and Ethnic Relations, the Metro Toronto Housing Corporation and the Metro Toronto Police Department. Several off-duty policemen took part.

"This doesn't turn everything around, but it reaches the children at a critical age, and I'd like to see the idea expanded," said Rick Gosling, director of the North York Committee.

Among the children four cultural groups were represented, Italian, Chinese, Somalis and Jewish. Gosling asked Robert Engel, a Jewish scouting official, to take part and Engel invited three teen-agers from B'nai Brith Youth Organization, May Dalume, of Iraqui descent, Michelle Goldhar and Jamie Granek, to join him in Wednesday evening sessions at the camp.

One of the black children asked the Jewish teen-agers, "Are you Nazis? Is the swastika your logo?" Gosling said another black child asked, "My brother said all Jews are rich, is that true?"

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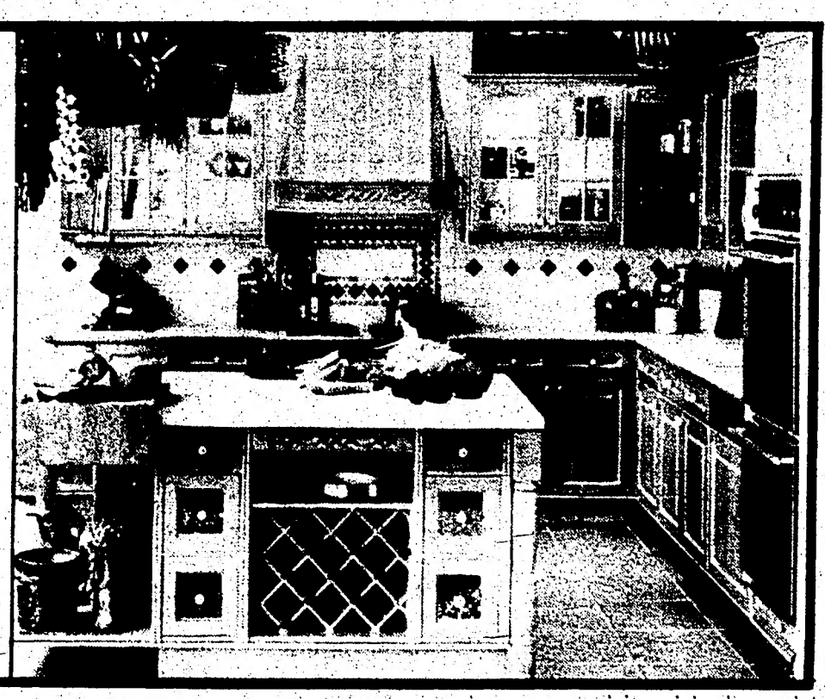


Greetings from Ezer Weizman

The following message by the President of Israel Ezer Weizman, for Rosh Hashanah 5754

President Ezer Weizman

On Rosh Hashanah we pray for a better year to come, for peace and well-being and the values we wish to see. Let me translate the individual and community wishes into those of our entire people. Let us turn our eyes away from the unforgotten past to the vision of a better future.

The 120 years of the Zionist endeavor and the development of the State of Israel are our reassurance, our guarantee. In its 46th year, the State that began its career with a Jewish population of 600,000, is now home to more than four million Jews, the last 500,000 of whom have been absorbed during the past three years from Ethiopia and the former Soviet Union.

With the whole-hearted cooperation of Diaspora Jewry, those half million new Israelis do not go hungry and are not roofless. The effort to achieve appropriate employment for all goes on, and with its growing success will surely come future absorption of Jews from all over the world.

We speak with the confidence that comes from overcoming so many obstacles and managing to create a sturdy social, economic and military infrastructure.

The peace we reached with Egypt laid the foundations for the Israeli-Arab negotiations of today. Success cannot be immediate or easy, but we are confident that it will come and bring progress and prosperity to the entire Middle East.

These are times of astonishing, even revolutionary change everywhere. We believe that we can make Israel what it should be: a magnet attracting all world Jewry. We believe that with highly developed technology, we can absorb up to two million more Jews by the beginning of the 21st century.

This is a historic necessity, for the present shows us that the Jewish future lies in Israel.

Let us work towards that future in this year 5754. May it be a year of peace, a good year for each and every one of us.

Message from Yitzhak Rabin

My Dear Friends,

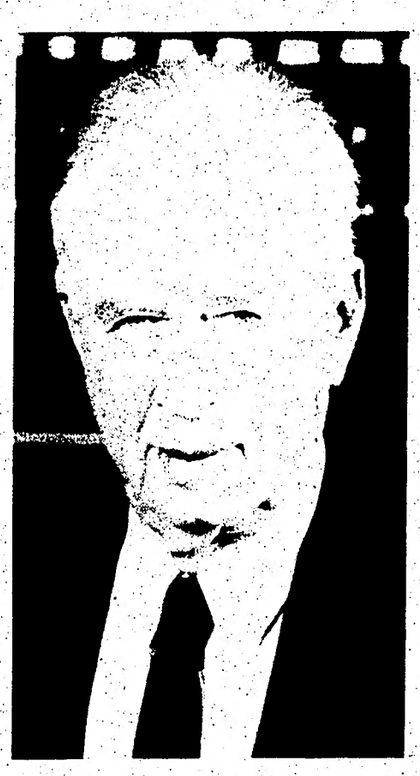
From our common house in Jerusalem, the eternal capital of the State of Israel and the everlasting capital and the spiritual home of the Jewish people, I send you my warmest wishes for a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. Shanah Tovah.

Rosh Hashanah is a time of soul-searching for the Jewish people. Therefore I would like to share with you some of my thoughts at one of the most significant times in the history of the Jewish State.

Let me begin by saying that the Jewish people in Israel share the deep concern of our fellow Jews throughout the world, over the demographic future of the Jewish people. The open pluralistic societies as well as other less fortunate ones have given Jews opportunities to integrate. However, they have also posed the greatest challenge to the task of preserving our Jewish identity, the danger of assimilation.

Indeed, Israel follows with great anxiety the growth of anti-Semitism, bigotry and racism. The old demons of anti-Semitism have found new ways to lure us. It is our sacred duty to combat fanaticism, to remain alert and to carry the historic message of our Jewish religion, a message of tolerance and openness.

Every Jew in the world should know that the days of wandering are well behind us. Our duty is to be the safe haven of the Jewish people and this mission is deeply entrenched in our minds.



Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin

The Zionist thinker Ahad Ha'am foresaw the Jewish State as the spiritual centre for all Jews, a source of pride, and a focus for our strongest energies. By the early decades of the next century, we will almost certainly reach a great Zionist milestone, and the State of Israel will become the largest Jewish community in the world.

Israel today is a strong country. And it is from a position of confidence that we are negotiating with our Arab partners. Peace is the essential element of our security doctrine. However, let there be no misunderstanding: There will be no unilateral compromises on any front. The security of the State of Israel and its citizens is our first and foremost concern, nothing will allow it to be compromised. That is the main principle that guides us. Let me also assure you, Jerusalem will remain united forever, under Israeli sovereignty, as the capital of Israel and the Jewish people. This issue is not open to negotiation.

Moreover, the whole world is no longer against us. Israel now enjoys full diplomatic relations with more than 120 countries. Japan, China, India and other nations, some of them previously hostile or indifferent to our interests are now our trading partners. Leaders from around the world are interested in developing and strengthening economic ties. Multinational firms are viewing us with new interest. The Arab boycott is losing its grip. And most important, Israel's relationship with the United States is firmer and friendlier than at any time in history.

Dear friends, we know that your love for us — as well as ours for you — is undiminished by our geographical separation. We in Israel invite you and your children to come and make your lives here, to come here often, to invest in our industries. Send your children to explore our country, to study in our universities, to learn in our yeshivot, to participate in our youth programs. There is no doubt in my mind that by doing so, not only will the bonds between our communities be strengthened, but the seeds for Jewish continuity will be sown and will bear fruit. We shall never forget that the Jewish communities around the world have played a central role in bringing to Israel close to half a million immigrants from the former Soviet Union, Ethiopia and Yemen. But this historical momentum should be continued. Especially now, greater energy and resources must be expended to enable hundreds of thousands of additional Jews to come to the Jewish homeland and to be properly absorbed.

Above all, our greatest challenge, and my most cordial and heartfelt call upon you is to preserve your Jewish identity. Dear friends, there are still countless challenges and obstacles facing Israel and the Jewish people, but Rosh Hashanah brings with it fresh optimism and confidence. May the year 5754 be a year of peace, a year of strength, and a year of opportunity for the entire house of Israel. As we proclaim on Simchat Torah, Chazak, chazak v'nitchazek — from strength will come yet greater strength.

Shanah Tovah U'Mevorechet, Ktiva Vachatima Tovah.

Ambassador's greetings

Dear Friends,

On the eve of the New Year we once again reflect upon our lives. We look to where we have been, and we look also to where we had hoped to be. This is as true for nations as it is for individuals.

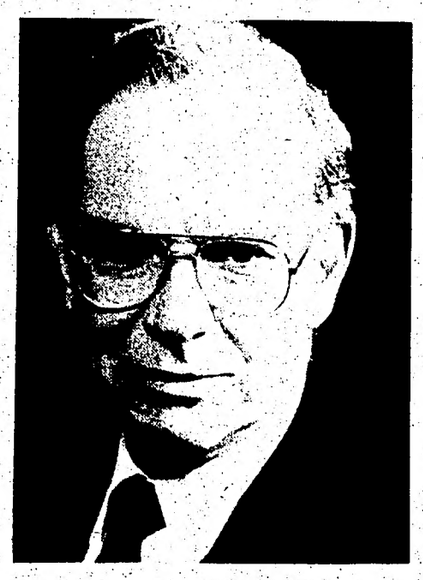
For the Jewish people, such reflection is a religious imperative as well as a natural inclination.

Rosh Hashanah prayers are the timeless expression of community interdependence and responsibility which has been the hallmark of Jewish life at this time of the year for generations wherever Jewish people have lived.

The prayers which ask to be remembered for long, healthy and rewarding years are the prayers of our forbears and the hopes of our children. These are prayers of thanks.

At this time of the year I would like to join all of you in praying for a good year, a year of personal health, fulfilment and reward, a year which will bring us closer to our millennial hope of peace.

I wish you all Shana Tova.



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Montreal community no longer one of the continent's largest

By JANICE ARNOLD

MONTREAL — Montreal is losing ground as one of the largest Jewish communities in North America, but the rate of decline has levelled off, according to a study by Federation CJA based on 1991 Canadian census data.

Montreal Jewish community is now the 11th largest Jewish community on the continent; in 1971, Montreal had the seventh largest Jewish popluation in North America and, in 1981, it was ninth. Today, it is comparable in size to Jewish communities in Baltimore and Detroit.

In 1991, Montreal had 96,710 Jews by religious identification (97,735 in the province), a 4.6 percent decrease from 1981, when the total was 101,365. "It is noteworthy that the decline in the last decade has been much less drastic than that of the 1970s," the study says. "For instance, between 1971 and 1981 the community went from 114,220 to 101,365 people, a loss of 11.3 percent or 12,855 people." Most of the decrease took place in the latter half of that period.

"The drop in the 1980s was only one-third as significant."

As an ethnic group, Jews are the fourth largest community in Montreal.

What Federation CJA cannot determine yet with precision is the relative influence of out-migration, births and death and immigration (including returnees to the province).

The study notes that Montreal is not alone in losing its Jewish population. Of the 17 North American communities with at least 50,000 Jews, about half declined in size between 1981 and 1991.

"Montreal's decrease of 4.6 percent was relatively moderate compared to urban centres such as New York (-27.4 percent), Miamia (-16 percent) and Philadelphia (-15.2 percent)."

The census data confirms that the Montreal Jewish community has aged, but that trend may be slowing. The number of people 65 and over in 1991 was 22,150 or almost 23 percent of the community. This is an increase of 2,765 from 1981, and almost 10,000 from 1971. (The percentages of elderly Jews in Ontario, by comparison, is 13.6.)

Surprisingly, the biggest loss in the 1981-91 period was in the 45-64 age group — a drop of 4,225 people. In 1971, this age group represented 27.2 percent of the community; by 1991, it was down to 20.8 percent.

The study speculates that those Jews who left Montreal in the late 1970s may now be in that age range. In any case, fewer "pre-elderly" now would indicate that senior citizens will be a smaller segment of the community in the future.

However, the number of elderly over 75 is expected to continue to grow, which has ramifications for how community funds are spent. This generally frailer group needs more services, the study observes.

Among the 25 to 44 or "baby boom" age group, the decline from 1981 to 1991 was 1,420 persons, for a total of almost 25,000. This relatively large proportion corresponds to the general population because of the higher postwar birthrate.

"Although this loss is not dramatic, if the percentage of working adults continues to decline, the implications could be profound," the study says, meaning fewer donors to community fundraising and a smaller pool from which to draw community leaders and workers.

The percentage of Jews aged 25-44 (25.6 percent) is well below that of the general Montreal population (35.3 percent), as well as that for Canadian Jews and Ontario Jews — 30.6 percent and 32.2 percent, respectively.

The 15-24 age group dropped more significantly, with a net loss of 2,655 over the decade. In 1971, this group was over 18 percent of the community total; in 1991, it was just 12.1 percent.

Planting roots

"This is the age when people enter the labor market, and considerations about marriage and family begin to arise. The question is how we can encourage this group to plant roots in Montreal, rather than elsewhere."

Certainly, age distribution will have a major bearing on the community's welfare. "The proportion of dependents — children and elderly — will continue to rise, leaving the responsibility of looking after more vulnerable members on a shrinking base of working adults."

A surprising finding is that the number of Jewish children has increased. There were almost 900 more youngsters from 0-14 years in 1991 than in 1981. The study's authors believe this is due to the "baby boomlet" produced by baby boomers' offspring. Montreal historically had the highest birth rate of any Canadian Jewish community.

The study takes a cautionary tone about the community's future fertility because of the decline in the 15 to 44 childbearing age group. Other negative factors on birthrate cited by the study were the increasing number of working women, later marriages, rising divorces and common-law unions.

Orthodox and Sephardi Jews, who have a higher birthrate, may also be affected by these trends in the future, the study suggests.

The 1991 census also reveals that 56.1 percent of Quebec Jews listed English as their only mother tongue. French was listed as a single response by 14.4 percent. Another 21.3 percent ticked off a sole mother tongue under "other" unspecified responses.

German, Polish, Spanish and Arabic were the other single mother tongue responses specified — all with between about 1,000-1,500 each. Surprisingly, Russian was not one of them.

The Quebec Jewish community has a larger proportion of immigrants (36.1 percent) than any other Canadian Jewish community, by provincial breakdown. The comparable figures for Canadian Jewry and Ontario Jewry are 32.7 percent and 32.4 percent, respectively.

As for education, 44.9 percent of Quebec Jews have a university degree, compared to 15 percent of the general Quebec population. However, this is lower than the Canadian Jewish and Ontario Jewish figures: 52.1 percent and 54.2 percent, respectively.

Montreal Jews were the only major community in Canada to identify as Jews more by religion than ethnicity in the 1991 census. This may be due not only to its being an older, more traditional community, but to the nature of Quebec society with its "historical emphasis on religious institutions in the province, and the denominational nature of the educational system."

Only 19.9 percent of Montreal Jews cited identification with another ethnic origin in addition to Jewish. By contrast, 26.5 percent of Toronto Jews and 49 percent of Vancouver Jews gave multiple ethnic answers.

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Federal parties vie for support as Campbell sets election date

ELECTION WATCH '93

Jean Chretien

Audrey McLaughlin

By JEFF ROSEN

TORONTO —And then there were six.

Unlike past federal elections in which three main parties dominated the political process, voters will notice a definite change in the political landscape of the country as candidates from four national parties and two regional ones (as well as a number of smaller parties) vie for voter support in the 35th general federal election, set for Oct. 25.

Prime Minister Kim Campbell, coming off a summer near-campaign of photo-opportunities designed to allow Canadians to get to know her and her new government, dissolved the 34th Parliament last Wednesday, Sept. 8 to seek her first mandate from the Canadian people.

Kim Campbell

"The fundamental issue before Canadians is to decide which approach, which party, which leadership can best carry Canada forward," she said as the campaign begun.

"Canadians want to see real hope restored, not false hopes raised," she said.

At dissolution, the Progressive Conservative party, headed by Campbell, held 155 of the 295 seats in Parliament. Jean Chretien's Liberal party held 79 and the New Democratic Party, headed by Audrey McLaughlin held 43. The Bloc Quebecois, headed by Lucien Bouchard, had eight members, all from Quebec and Preston Manning's Reform party held a single seat. There were also two independent MPs and seven vacancies.

The outgoing Parliament is far different from the one Canadians sent to Ottawa in late 1988, when three different leaders led Canada's national parties. The Conservatives, then under former prime minister Brian Mulroney, captured 169 seats; the Liberals under then leader John Turner captured 83 seats and the NDP, led by Ed Broadbent finished with their strongest showing ever of 43 seats.

Since then though, Canada's changing political climate has resulted in the growth of thriving regional parties which will compete head-to-head in various areas of the country with national parties for voter support.

In Quebec the BQ will be making their first trek to the polls, having recruited their eight existing MPs from the Liberal and PC parties. Elsewhere, the presence of the Reform Party and the National Party, headed by publisher Mel Hurtig, are sure to make an impact on the political landscape.

As politicians head out to the hustings, *The Canadian Jewish News* will provide a look at election issues and events of particular concern to its readers. Among them will be Canada-Israel relations and Canada's role in helping to promote peace in the Middle East, immigration and refugees, prosecution of war criminals and the fight against racial hatred.

Lucien Bouchard

Preston Manning

Not to be ignored will be the ever-present national unity question and Canada's economic situation which differs greatly from the one which existed back in 1988.

Then the economy was still on a high note, free trade with the United States was an election issue, not a fait accompli, and issues such as NAFTA (the North American Free Trade Agreement, including Mexico) and the GST (the Federal general sales tax) were shadowy, a far different picture than that which exists today, with double-digit unemployment, and deficit cutting all the rage at the federal as well as provincial levels.

We will also follow the involvement of Jews in the electoral process across the country ... both as voters and as candidates.

While there will be more parties involved in this year's contest, the number of Jewish candidates has dwindled slightly from the 12 who ran last time out.

In Ontario, veteran Liberal Robert Kaplan has departed the political scene, leaving Liberal Herb Grey as the sole Jewish MP seeking re-election.

In Quebec Liberal MP Sheila Finestone will be seeking re-election, running against another Jewish candidate, Tory Neil Drabkin. Elsewhere Liberal David Berger and Conservative Gerry Weiner will seek re-election in St. Henri-Westmount and Pierrefonds-Dollard, respectively. In St. Laurent-Cartierville, another Weiner, Mark, (Gerry's son), will make his first run at the political process.

The CJN will also keep a close watch on a number of non-Jewish MPs and candidates in significant Jewish ridings.

Women's role in politics examined.
See page 8.

Mel Hurtig

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Minority Relations

By PAUL LUNGEN

TORONTO — To a visitor from abroad or even someone from smalltown Ontario, Toronto presents the vision of a city that's impersonal and larger than life. There are soaring skyscrapers, the world's tallest structure — the CN Tower — and mega-malls of glass and steel where thousands mill about in anonymity.

But Toronto is more than merely an impersonal monument to shopping and commerce. It is also a city dotted with numerous small businesses catering to the hodgepodge of ethnic groups who share neighborhoods and who come into constant contact with each other — a place where merchants wander into their neighbor's store just to sit down and shoot the breeze or where customers and merchants spend as much time talking about holiday customs as they do about price and delivery.

Isaak Dagan and his wife Ellen (nee Haber) are among the dwindling number of Jewish shopkeepers who run small businesses in the garment trade. Haber Textile, named after Ellen's father who started the business, supplies fabric for men's suits. It operates out of modest premises at Eglinton Avenue near Oakwood — hardly anyone's idea of a Jewish neigborhood — now.

Their clientele consists largely of immigrants from the Caribbean and Africa, with a smattering of Greeks and Italians thrown in for good measure. There are few Jewish tailors left today who come in for cloth, they say.

That's a far cry from the days when Haber Textile was located on Spadina Avenue and when Mr. Haber used to converse with customers in Yiddish, Czech, German, Polish, Hungarian or Russian. Today, Dagan is more likely to follow in his father-in-law's tradition by trading small talk in Hindi, Vietnamese, Arabic and Italian.

"It's a personal touch," Ellen says. "People like to hear their language, even if only a few words. It shows you're interested, that you care.

"When you are in a community like this, you have to fit in," she continues. "You can't be an outsider."

For the Dagans, being Jewish in an area with only a few Jewish businesses and few Jewish residents is hardly a handicap. Ellen sees it, in fact, as "better than a book. You get into the aspect of the human touch. It's fun to learn about other people, what makes them tick."

Running a business in an area frequented by other cultures — many of whom fled oppressive conditions in their homelands — gives them an insight into their values and beliefs, they say.

"Here, these people probably suffered and they identify with the Jewish people who suffered," Dagan said. "Even the people who came from Somalia and Ghana will respect the Jewish people for what they are, probably because they suffered as well."

For the Dagans, fitting into the community means digging into their pockets when Ethiopian immigrants ask for help for their kinsmen back home, as well as providing clothing for hurricane relief for Jamaicans hit by Hurricane Hugo.

Isaak Dagan (right) and his wife Ellen run a fabric supply business in the Eglinton/Oakwood area of Toronto. They're seen here showing off their merchandize to a potential buyer. [Paul Lungen photo]

It also means treating customers with respect. The Dagans believe that attitude is key to good, neighborly relations. Dagan, who was born in Iraq, said their customers from Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Iran "identify with us because they feel that they are here and I'm here and we're struggling for the same things — a better life in Canada."

Unlike his previous experience on Spadina (they moved to Eglinton in 1985), where some customers would say, " 'Oh, you're a Jew, I probably didn't get a good deal,' there's no problem whatsoever on Eglinton. It's very harmonious."

Dagan tells of a Jewish customer who "took his kipa off a block away from the store because he was afraid he would be taunted. But we told him he's wrong, there'd be no problems."

In their neighborhood, "you learn to be tolerant, to understand others, their foods, their lives, your common background," Ellen says. "You can't live behind a wall."

* * *

For many immigrants, their first contact with members of the Jewish community comes when they seek the help of lawyers to help make their case for refugee status.

Whether it's out of sympathy for immigrants fleeing oppression or simply because there is no shortage of Jews in the legal profession, a number of young Jewish lawyers are acting for refugee claimants from places as diverse as Sri Lanka and Somalia.

Winnipeg native Gordon Wiseman says a large number of his clients originate in the Tamil community. Next door to his Bay Street office, lawyer Max Berger likewise counsels Tamil refugee claimants.

Wiseman has developed a good rapport with the community's leadership. When three Tamils were attacked within a short span earlier this summer — a white supremacist faces charges in one of the attacks — members of the community approached him for advice on how to respond.

"Often a new immigrant group is afraid to make waves," Wiseman said, "but it's important to share with them our experience. I tell them that it's important to make waves and that there's strength in numbers and not to be intimidated by being in a new country."

Community involvement

Wiseman said the success of a Tamil-sponsored rally earlier in the summer that attracted the cooperation of many anti-racism groups, including Canadian Jewish Congress and B'nai Brith Canada, showed the the cohesiveness of the Tamil community.

The Jewish community's involvement in the rally (also present were representatives of the New Jewish Agenda and a Jewish feminist group) is a heartening development, he said.

Wiseman believes that the work done for immigrants by Jewish lawyers such as himself, Berger, Michael Romoff, David Yerzi, Julius Mlynarski, Lorne Waldman and others builds bridges between the communities.

"It's more than a lawyer-client relationship in that they seek advice on unrelated community matters and problems they have in trying to fit in with Canadian society," he said.

Jewish lawyers active in immigration law, Wiseman suggests, "still remember the experiences of parents and grandparents and we have a natural affinity with immigrants. You can't help but admire those who want to come here for a better life. That's how we got to be here.

"We share stories about our backgrounds in that way and we both seem to be impressed by the similarities."

Tamils struggle in Sri Lanka for a homeland and they admire how Israelis fought for and obtained a homeland. Both Somalis and Tamils rely on an extended family and their sense of community is very important. Like the Jewish community in its early years in Canada, they stick up for each other and develop self-help groups that responds to the needs of community members, he said.

Sam Duraiswamy, president of the Tamil Eelam Society, believes that Tamils gravitate to Jewish lawyers because of the similarities of their experiences. "Most lawyers that Tamils go to first is a Tamil and then to [a Jewish one]. They feel they have had experiences of oppression and so they'll fight for their cause.

"I have noticed we have a lot of things in common," Duraiswamy said. "Both communities are industrious and both give pride of place to education."

Tamils "look to the Jewish community as [a model] for our community," Duraiswamy continued. "If they are united and go together as a united front, they'll achieve a lot."

Romoff, a Montreal-born lawyer also involved in immigration work, says that Somalis refugee claimants make up the vast majority of his caseload. Though most are Muslims, that has never been a barrier between them, he said. In fact, Romoff said "I've had people from obscure parts of Africa [ask for] a Jewish lawyer."

Romoff said Somalis had not been exposed to Jews in their homeland and so, for many, their meeting with him might be their first exposure to a Jew. He agreed that he could be seen as a goodwill ambassador between the two groups.

Often, he said, he and clients talk about topics unrelated to law. Somalis have a lot of values that are similar to those held in the Jewish community, such as strong family ties, treating children well and an emphasis on education. Like immigrant parents of other groups, Somalis are concerned over assimilation to North American lifestyles of their children, he said.

Ali Duale, a member of the board of the Somali Canadian Society of Metro Toronto, which represents 7,000 people, mostly of the Isaaq tribe, said "as far as the Isaaq are concerned, Jewish lawyers have a good understanding of those who have been repressed, who have been exterminated.

"Because of their history, they are more sympathetic to our suffering."

B'nai Brith counsel David Matas, president of the Canadian Council for Refugees, agrees there is a natural link between Jews and refugee claimants. "Before the war," he said, "refugee meant Jewish and that's why it was so hard to get refugee status, because of anti-Semitism."

Matas said his knowledge of Canada's history of exclusion is part of his personal motivation that drew him to practice refugee law.

* * *

Alex Wertheim was born in the city of Lodz in 1949, the son of Jewish underground fighters. Though the family emigrated from Poland when he was only 10 (first to Israel, later to Toronto), Wertheim admits to having an "unknown, mystical" connection to the land of his birth.

In recent years, he has developed a more concrete attachment as well, as Wertheim has traded on his language skills, his business acumen and his understanding of the Polish psyche to build a thriving export business to Poland.

At the same time, he is one of the prime movers and shakers behind the Polish-Jewish Heritage Foundation, a modest-sized organization that sponsors programs of mutual interest.

Wertheim concedes that he might be seen as a "human bridge" spanning the two communities, "but it's a very small bridge on a huge ocean," he says. "Somebody has to do it. If there were more bridges, there would be better understanding between the two communities."

Wertheim has been to Poland 18 times in the past two years and his business will bring him there many times more. In all his trips, he's never experienced any incidents of anti-Semitism, "though I know it exists," primarily in the smaller villages, he said.

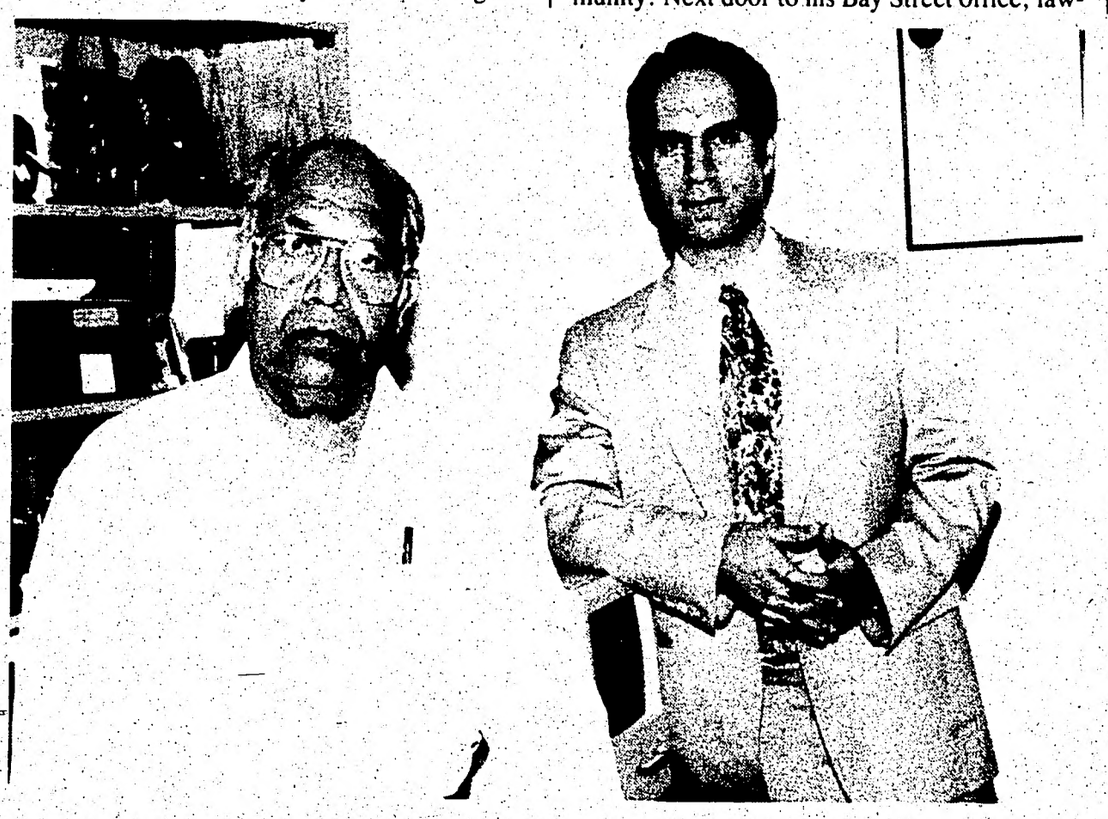
On the other hand, Wertheim said he found a growing appreciation for Israeli-made products, which are seen as having a good reputation for quality. And anything designated as kosher is viewed as being pure and clean — even mineral water and vodka, he added.

Wertheim says he's been asked by Jews why he would want to do business in Poland "after what happened to us there." He says, however, that the Jewish perception of Poland is slowly changing as more people go back and visit their roots.

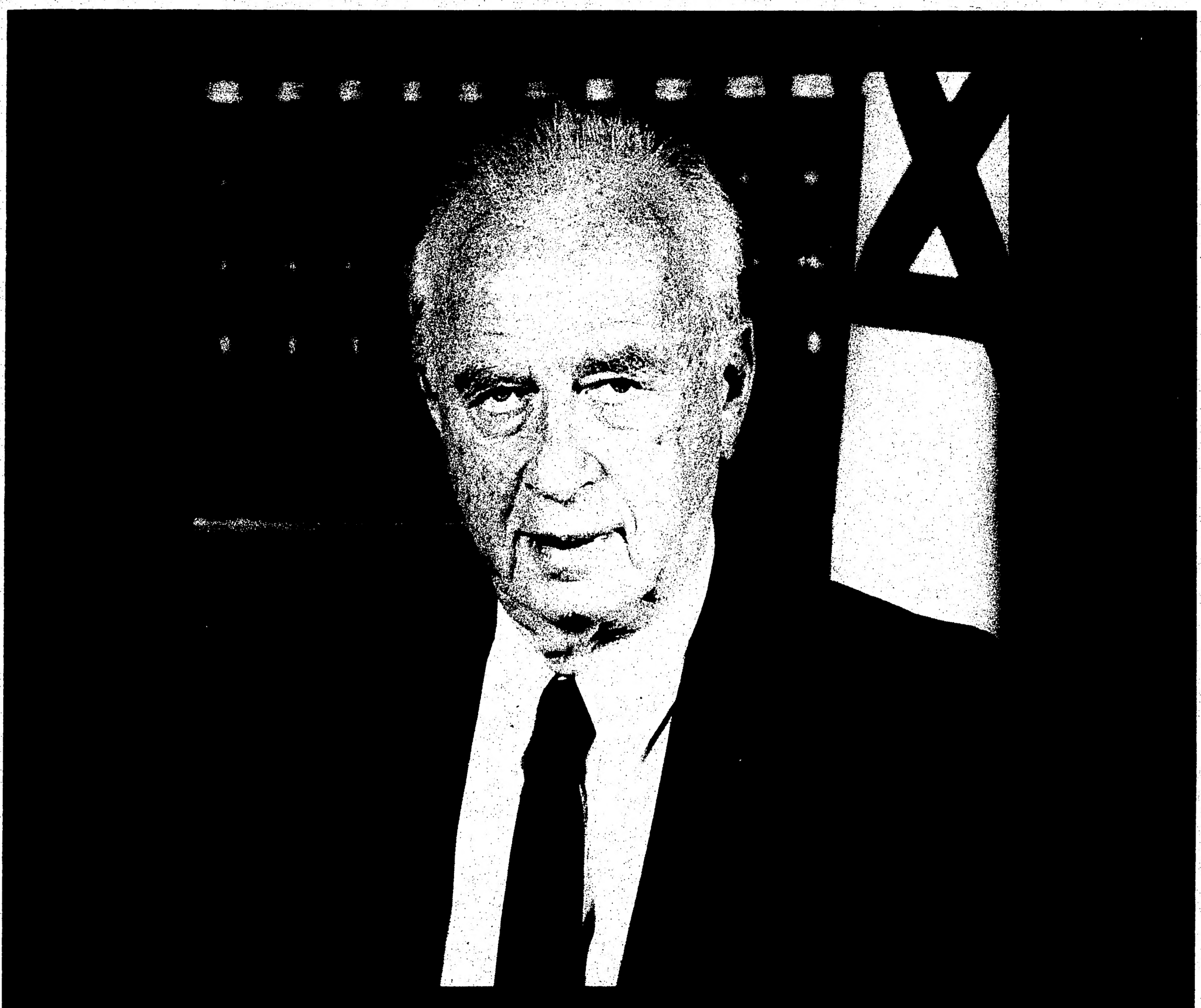
Canadian Poles "look positively at people like myself who do business in Poland," he said. "They see it as a change of Poland's image — that Jews do not see Poland as anti-Semitic."

As for the future of Polish/Jewish relations, Wertheim says "my dream is that my daughter won't look at Poland and say they're anti-Semitic and that a young Pole won't look at a Jew with a negative stereotype.

"We can, by better communication and by organizing events together improve that image," he said.



Sam Duraiswamy, president of the Tamil Eelam Society of Canada (left), and lawyer Gordon Wiseman believe there is a natural affinity between Tamil refugee claimants and Jewish lawyers. [Paul Lungen photo]



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Canada

Female candidates examine women's issues, role in politics

ELECTION WATCH '93

By FRANCES KRAFT

TORONTO — Three women candidates in the upcoming federal election took part in a panel discussion last week on Women in Politics — Women in a Changing World, a program hosted by National Council of Jewish Women, Toronto section, at Council House.

Jean Augustine, Liberal, Etobicoke Lakeshore; Isabel Bassett, PC, St. Paul's; and Winnie Ng, NDP, Trinity Spadina, offered insight into women's issues and the role of female politicians. Kathleen Kenna, an editor at *The Toronto Star*, moderated the discussion.

Although Canadian women won the right to vote in federal elections 75 years ago, "we do have a long way to go," noted Kenna. Women represent 52 percent of the population, but hold only 13 percent of the 295 seats in the House of Commons.

According to Augustine, women will not make a noticeable difference in the House until they reach a critical mass of 30 percent. Those figures are born out in Scandinavian studies, she said. Her party has set a target of 25 percent women candidates, and at 23 percent is close, she said. There is also a Liberal party fund to support women candidates.

Bassett believes that having more women in parliament "will change the nature of the way we do business in parliament. I think women are less confrontational. I've seen it on boards where women from different backgrounds work together for common ends."

Bassett also noted that having more women MPs will make it easier for them to speak out on so-called "women's issues" including child care, pensions, affordable housing and employment and language training.

"If there's only one woman on a committee, chances are she won't speak out as strongly, or she'll be termed a whiner," said Bassett. "Regardless of party [affiliation], I welcome the fact that other women are running."

Bassett theorized that socialization has set up "powerful barriers" preventing women from entering politics, such as split priorities between career and family.

Women also "have a more difficult time, usually, getting [campaign] money, mostly because we're not hobnobbing with men...on the golf course or in the men's clubs where [men] meet men at a high level who can provide them with money or access to money to fill the coffers when they're about to run."

Augustine concurred that funding campaigns can be problematic for women. "It's difficult for me to say, 'I need your money.' As women, we're not socialized to make those requests as boldly as men do."

A further obstacle is that women candidates are often given "throwaway" ridings rather than "winnable" ones, said Bassett. "Obviously they're not considered likely candidates to win."

All three candidates noted that they have received support from their respective parties. The NDP party has an affirmative action policy as well as a fund to provide women candidates with money for expenses such as child care, said Ng, but ultimately it's up to women to "work twice as hard."

Bassett said the PC party has actively sought female candidates. She was "enormously surprised" by the extent of support she is receiving from her party, both from other female candidates on an informal level and practical help from the party on how to manage life as a new candidate.

The candidates also discussed their positions and their parties' positions on election issues ranging from health care to NAFTA to job creation.

In answer to a question on how to assess male candidates' positions on women's issues, Bassett recommended the Shocking Pink Paper put out by the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women (CACSW) as a resource. The paper outlines specific women's issues and questions to ask candidates.

"If women's issues are important to you, vote for Kim Campbell," advised Bassett. "She is the biggest statement we could be making as a role model."

It would, however, be erroneous to assume that all men are not conversant with women's issues, cautioned Augustine. She advised asking questions around the campaign office rather than at a public forum. "It's very easy to give the platitudes on the platform," she said.

Opposition mounting against NFP meeting

By JANICE ARNOLD

MONTREAL — Opposition continues to mount against a meeting of local supporters of France's far-right National Front Party planned for Sept. 22.

Opponents have succeeded in getting Roger Alacoque, leader of the National Front's Quebec branch, expelled from the federal Liberal Party, and B'nai Brith (BB) thinks there may be grounds to prosecute Alacoque for disseminating hate propaganda.

"Alacoque's statements and activities come close to the accepted definition of hate propaganda. The government should be investigating the potential for a prosecution," said Stephen Scheinberg, national chair of BB's League for Human Rights.

BB has also asked the provincial Liberal party to oust Alacoque, but party director-general Pierre Anctil has said Alacoque has the right to retain his membership, however inconsistent his views may be with Liberal policy. The party said Alacoque has been a member since at least 1984, but has not been active.

Alacoque, who lives in North Hatley, has expressed strong reservations about the types of immigrants accepted by Quebec, particularly non-francophones from the Third World, whom he sees as a threat to the province's French-Canadians. He has also referred to a leader of the Ku Klux Klan in Montreal, Michel Laroque, as "a good boy."

"They keep citing the Charter [of Rights and Freedoms] as a barrier to [his] expulsion [from the Quebec Liberal party]," said Scheinberg, "but while Alacoque's repulsive ideas may be protected in Canadian and Quebec society, an organization has no responsibility to accept membership from those fundamentally opposed to its policies.

"Surely, Alacoque's xenophobic ideas have no place in our mainstream political parties," he said.

The Canadian representative of the Simon Wiesenthal Centre, Sol Littman, said that "active or not, Alacoque's presence in the (Quebec) Liberal party is a clear contradiction of the party's principles and a taint on the party's good name." Littman has written a letter to party president Jean-Pierre Roy urging him not to brush the matter aside. He has received no reply.

Meanwhile, Canadian Jewish Congress has joined a coalition of more than 50 human rights and community organizations urging Montreal Mayor Jean Dore to prevent Jean-Yves Le Gallou, the National Front's chief ideologue on immigration matters and number two man after leader Jean Marie Le Pen, from participating in an international conference on urban issues taking place in Montreal later this month.

Le Gallou is scheduled to be the guest speaker at a meeting of Alacoque's group, called the Cercle National des Francais a l'Etranger.

An aide to Multiculturalism Minister Gerry Weiner said Alacoque is "anti-immigrant and definitely anti-Semitic and an avowed Holocaust denier."

A demonstration against the National Front meeting is planned by the Canadian Centre on Racism and Prejudice, a private group headed by Martin Theriault.

The anti-racist coalition is planning a demonstration Sept. 21 in the Place des Arts' courtyard at 5 p.m. and the next day in Berri Park at 6 p.m.

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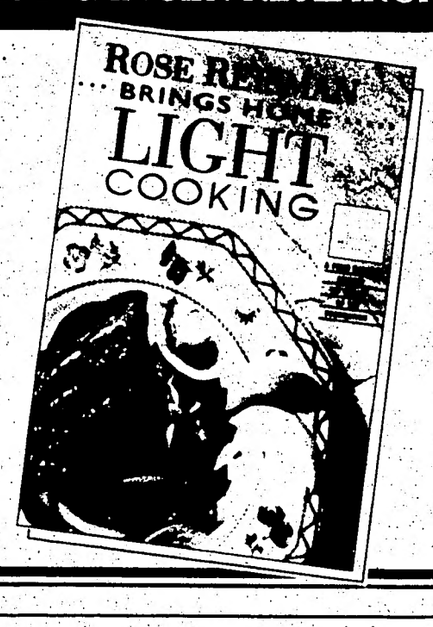

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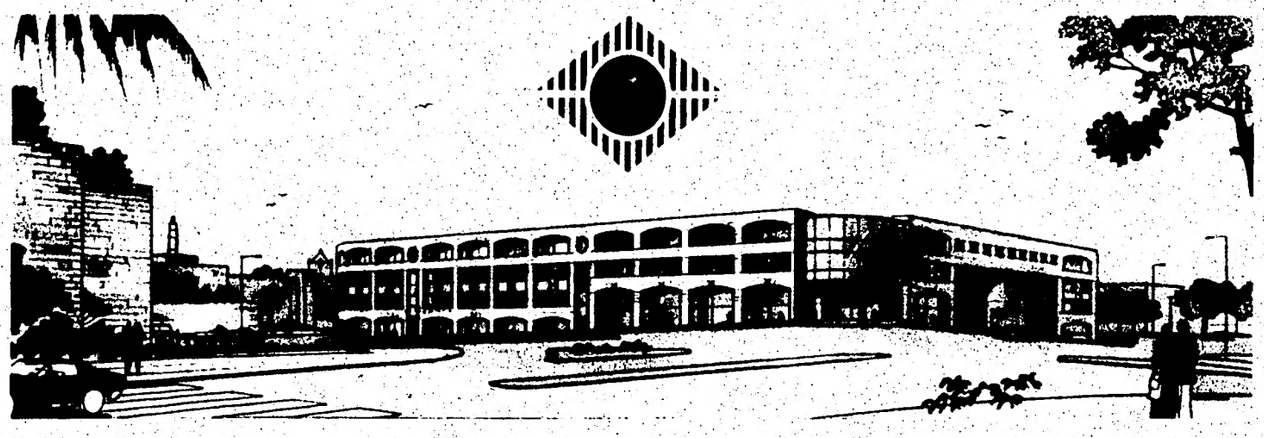

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CHABAD PROTESTS

A campaign has been launched by the Chabad Lubavitch movement against territorial concessions by the Israeli government during peace negotiations. The billboard near the Tel Aviv railway station reads: The Land of Israel is in danger. It is forbidden to concede [territory]! [IPPA photo]

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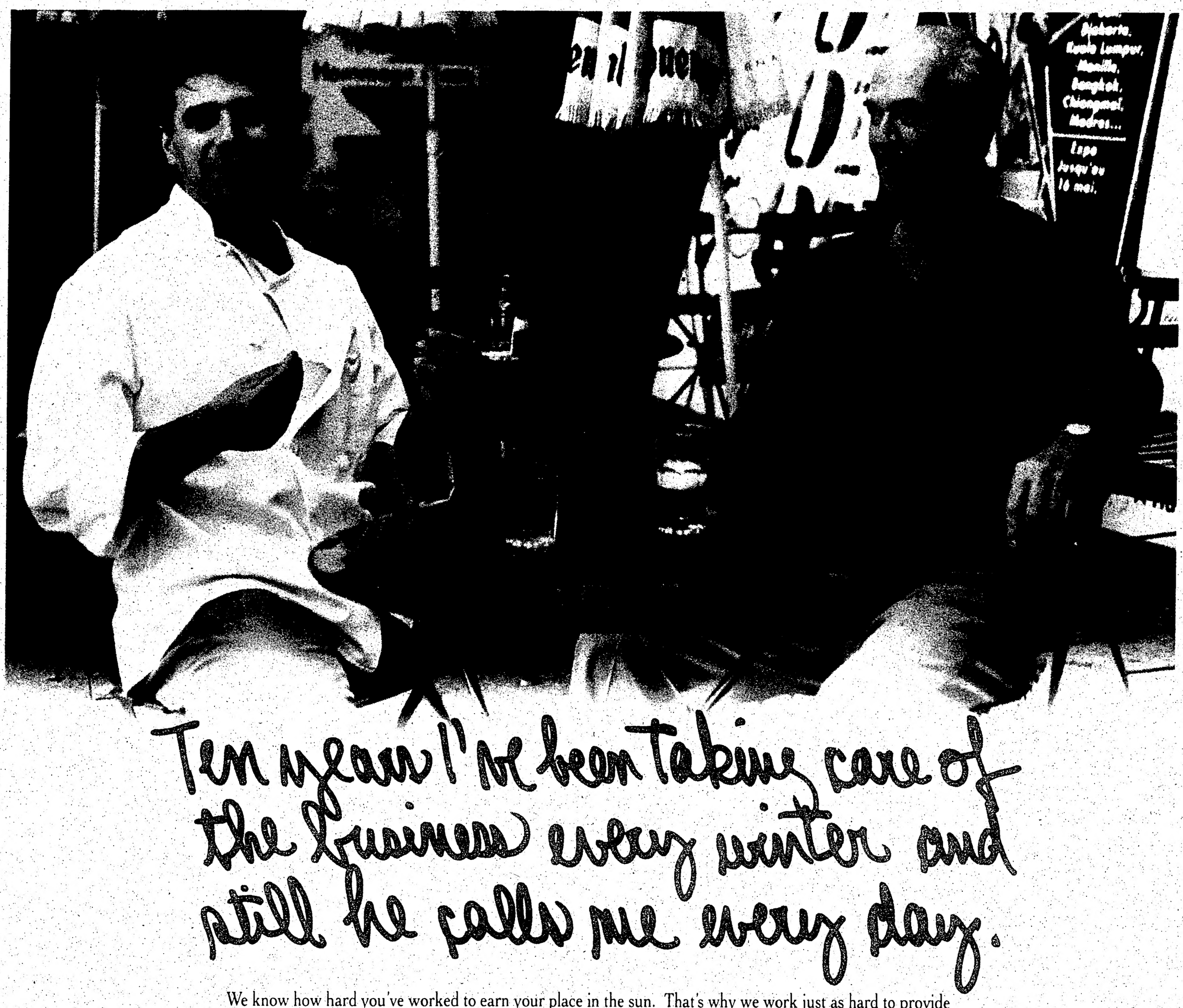

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World

Campbell, Beatty endorse peace deal

By RON CSILLAG

TORONTO — Both Prime Minister Kim Campbell and External Affairs Minister Perrin Beatty have heartily endorsed the historic mutual recognition agreement signed Monday between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

On an election campaign swing in southern Ontario last week, Campbell said the agreement "reflects statesmanship of the highest order and is enormously encouraging."

Beatty, also stumping in Metro Toronto, telephoned *The CJN* last Friday to say his government supports and is "very encouraged" by the pact.

"There's obviously more that has to be done to ensure a lasting and durable peace," he cautioned. "But what we've seen is almost an unimaginable example of human vision and courage, both political and physical courage, on the part of the participants."

Beatty, who represented Canada at Monday's signing ceremony in Washington, said Ottawa was not involved in the secret negotiations in Oslo which led to the agreement and to the Palestinian self-rule plan in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

Oslo was where the last meeting of the multilateral peace talks on Middle East refugees took place over the summer, coinciding with the secret Israel-PLO negotiations. Canada has chaired the refugee working group since last year and has hosted two sessions in Ottawa. The next session is scheduled for Oct. 12 to 14 in Tunis.

Mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO will make Canada's role in those talks easier, Beatty said.

Canada has also donated a total of $13 million to the peace process and contributes some $50 million a year in development assistance to the Middle East.

Despite "serious" financial restraints, Canada will "look at how best we can provide assistance and be supportive of the [peace] process as we go along because we want to see it succeed and we want to ensure that all the people of the region are finally able to unlock the economic potential of that part of the world."

Canada hopes the agreement will mean that Israel "will have the confidence [knowing] they're not going to be subjected to terrorism and where territorial integrity of Israel is going to be respected and acknowledged by all its neighbors."

Israel "has shown enormous courage" in recognizing the PLO.

Beatty would not say whether Canada is any closer to recognizing the PLO, although he allowed that Canadian officials have had "high level" meetings with PLO representatives in recent years.

For now, the "key" is for Ottawa to ensure that the peace plan "takes root."

Canadian officials were left in dark despite high-ranking meeting with PLO

TORONTO — Canada's Assistant Deputy Minister for External Affairs, Marc Perron, met with at least two high-ranking PLO officials in late August.

The purpose of the meetings was to prepare all parties involved for the next round of multilateral peace talks on Middle East refugees, to take place next month in Tunis. Canada has chaired the refugee working group since last year.

The meetings had nothing to do with the secret talks in Oslo which culminated in the PLO-Israel recognition deal. In fact, Canada "didn't know anything" about the Oslo talks, External Affairs spokesman Rodney Moore told *The CJN*.

While on a swing through several Mideast countries during the last week of August, including Israel, Perron held talks in Tunis with Achmad Abu-al-Ala, head of the PLO's economic department and who holds responsibilities for the multilateral talks.

In Cairo, Perron met with Nabil Sha'ath, a senior political advisor to the PLO.

Perron is the first Canadian official to meet with such high-level PLO officials at the organization's Tunis headquarters, Moore said.

In June, then External Affairs Minister Barbara McDougall met privately in Ottawa with Faisal Husseini, head of the Palestinian delegation to the bilateral peace talks in Washington.

Canada ended its restrictions on official contacts with the PLO in March, 1989.

— **R.C.**

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'Giving peace a chance'

[Cont'd. from page 1]

"Today on the eve of an opportunity, an opportunity for peace, we remember every one of them with everlasting love. We have come from Jerusalem, the ancient and eternal capital of the Jewish people. We have come from an anguished and grieving land. We have come to try and put an end to the hostilities so that our children, our children's children will not experience the painful cost of war, violence and terror. We have come to secure their rights and to ease the sorrow and the painful memories of the past, to hope and pray for peace," the prime minister said.

"Let me say to you, the Palestinians: We have come from a land where parents bury their children, we who have fought against you. We say to you today, in a loud and clear voice: enough of blood and tears. Enough. We have no desire for revenge. We harbor no hatred towards you. We, like you, are people. People who want to build a home, to plant a tree, to love, to live side by side with you in dignity, in empathy, as human beings, as free men.

"We are today giving peace a chance and saying again to you, enough. Let us pray that a day will come that we all we say, farewell to arms. We wish to open a new chapter in the sad book of our lives together. A chapter of mutual recognition, of good neighborliness, of mutual respect, of understanding. We hope to embark on a new era in the history of the Middle East.

"Today here in Washington, at the White House, we will begin a new reckoning in the relations between peoples. Between parents tired of war. Between children who will not know war."

A sombre Rabin quoted from the book of Ecclesiastes, that " 'to everything, there is a season ... a time of war and a time of peace.' Ladies and gentlemen, the time for peace has come."

Referring again to Rosh Hashanah, Rabin said, "I believe, I hope, I pray that a new year will bring a message of redemption for all peoples, a good year for Israelis and Palestinians, a good year for all the people of the Middle East.

Glancing at Clinton, Arafat said, through a translator, "Mr. President, I'm taking the opportunity to assure you and the great American people, to say we share values of justice, freedom and human rights, values for which my people have been striving.

"This agreement ... marks the beginning of the end of a chapter of pain and suffering that has lasted throughout the century. My people are hoping that this agreement will usher in an age of peace, co-existence and equal rights."

In the only reference made to United Nations resolutions dealing with the Arab-Israeli conflict, the PLO leader said the pact "and moving towards the final settlement after two years to implement all aspects of UN resolutions 242 and 338 and resolve all the issues of Jerusalem, the settlements, the refugees and the boundaries, will be a Palestinian and Israeli responsibility.

"It is also the responsibility of the international community to help the parties overcome the tremendous difficulties still standing in the way of reaching a final and comprehensive settlement.

"As we stand on the threshold of this new, historic era, let me address the people and the leaders of Israel with whom we are meeting and let me assure them that the difficult decision we are reaching together is one that required great and exceptional courage. We will need more courage and determination to continue the course of building coexistence and peace between us."

What awaits Rabin and Arafat is nothing less than the selling job of their lives, for fierce opposition to the deal has already been dispayed by both radical Palestinians and Israeli Jews.

Perhaps the greatest stumbling block will be Jerusalem. Rabin told U.S. network television prior to the signing that Jerusalem will remain Israel's capital forever, despite the PLO's intractible demand that the city be the capital of a future Palestinian state.

"The Palestinian flag will not be over Jerusalem," Rabin pledged.

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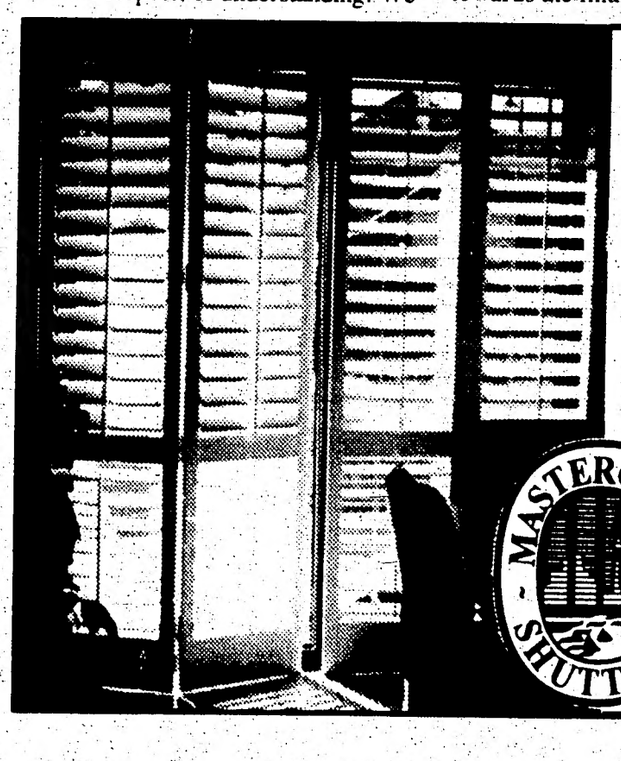

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RESIDENTIAL-COMMERCIAL

Terrorist incidents mar historic moment

JERUSALEM (JTA) — A series of terrorist incidents over last weekend claimed the lives of four Israelis and three Palestinians, marring the euphoria surrounding the historic agreement between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization that is supposed to usher in a new era of peaceful coexistence.

An armed terrorist boarded an Egged bus Sunday evening on the road from Ashdod to Ashkelon and stabbed and killed the driver after he stopped the vehicle and put up a fight.

The attacker also stabbed two soldiers on the bus before a third soldier opened fire and killed him.

In a separate incident Sunday morning, three Israeli soldiers were ambushed and killed by gunmen of the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas group in Gaza City just hours before Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin boarded a plane for Washington to sign the historic peace pact with the PLO.

A flier, signed by the El-Kassam military wing of Hamas, said the attack was part of the organization's ongoing fight against the agreement and the "continuing war against the Israeli army and the Jewish occupiers of Palestine."

The gunfire wounded the three Israeli soldiers, including the driver, who lost control of the vehicle.

The jeep then crashed into a wall of a shop at the side of a local mosque, killing all three soldiers.

In a separate incident about 30 minutes before the ambush, a suicide bomber driving a booby-trapped car killed himself when he rammed his vehicle into a prison service bus carrying 45 policemen and prison staffers in Gaza City.

Two of the passengers were slightly injured.

But the makeshift bombs failed to detonate.

Also on Sunday, a 22-year-old Palestinian was killed in the Rafah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip when a grenade he was holding blew up while he was fleeing Israeli soldiers.

He was reportedly wanted by the authorities for terrorist activities.

Sunday's attacks came in the wake of calls from militant Arab leaders bent on undermining the proposed agreement for Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho to step up attacks against Israelis.

On Friday, the same day Rabin put his signature to a historic letter granting Israeli recognition to the PLO, anti-accord protesters staged a demonstration in the West Bank town of Ramallah.

Some 200 supporters of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and Hamas participated in the demonstration, which turned violent when they began throwing gasoline bombs and stones at Israeli army jeeps.

Israeli riot police carry away a Jewish protester opposed to peace moves as they try to clear the road near Prime Minster Yizhak Rabin's offices. [RNS Reuters]

Israeli soldiers opened fire, killing two Palestinians and wounding eight others.

The same day, in eastern Jerusalem, 200 supporters of the PLO threw rocks and bottles at army jeeps and a post office that had already closed for the day, prompting Israeli police to respond with tear gas.

Throughout the weekend violence, opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu continued sounding alarms over the peace plan, warning it was a prelude to a Palestinian state that will threaten Jordan as well as Israel.

Netanyahu predicted Israel would see "a PLO state emerging on its doorstep, in alliance with our worst enemies and able to reach the sea at a distance of 10 miles." That, he said, "is a strategic threat to the life of Israel."

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Deportees allowed back

TEL AVIV (JTA) — After nine months of exile, 181 of the Palestinian extremists who were deported to Lebanon last December last week re-crossed the border and returned to the administered territories.

The deportees left behind 207 other Palestinians, who are scheduled to return in December.

The exiles, all suspected members of the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas and Islamic Jihad movements, had been living in a tent camp at Marj al-Zahour in Lebanon, some two miles north of Israel's buffer security zone.

Israel had agreed to allow 189 of the deportees to return, but eight decided to remain in Lebanon, fearing long prison terms if they accepted the offer, according to a camp spokesperson.

In all, Israel deported 415 Palestinians to Lebanon last December, following a series of murderous attacks by Muslim extremists within Israel.

Nineteen of the original group were returned to Israel earlier this year because of illness or because Israeli authorities admitted they had been expelled in error.

The 181 returning deportees were divided into groups of 20 at the tent camp. They then made their way on foot to the Zumriya crossing point, where tents had been erected for their processing.

After they were given medical examinations by Red Cross doctors and went through an identification process, they were placed aboard waiting buses for a short trip to another holding area inside the security zone.

They then boarded two buses for their return to prisons and detention camps inside Israel and the territories.

The windows of the buses were painted over to conceal the identities of the passengers from curious passers-by, particularly those in Kiryat Shmona, many of whom were angered by Israel's decision to free the deportees. The Galilee panhandle town has been a frequent target of Katyusha rocket attacks by guerrillas of the fundamentalist Hezbollah movement.

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ראש השנה ווערט פאַרעכנט פאַר דעם יידישן ניי-יאָר. אין דער ווייטער פאַרגאַנגענהייט איז אַבער ניטאָ קיין אָנדייט וועגן דעם. אין חומש ווערט געזאָגט, אַז דער ערשטער טאָג פון 7-טן חודש תשרי זאָל פאַרצייכנט ווערן ווי אַ רו-טאָג און אַ טאָג פון בלאָזן דעם שופר.

עס ווערט דעריבער אָנגענומען, אַז אין אָנהויב זיינען די דריי יום-טובֿים געווען פאַרבונדן מיט דער אַרבעט און לעבן פון די פויערים. דער גאַנצער 7-טער חודש תשרי איז געפייערט געוואָרן ווי אַ האַרבסט פעסטיוואַל פון שניט און איז געווען זייער אַ פריילעכער יום-טוב.

גאַר אָן אַנדער אויסטייטשונג באַקומט דער נאָטור יום-טוב פון חודש תשרי נאָך גלות בבל. דער ערשטער טאָג ווערט דער יידישער ניי-יאָר ראש השנה. דער צענטער טאָג -- יום כּפּור. די צען פאַרכטיקע טעג, ווען אַ פּיש אין וואַסער ציטערט, ווערן אָנגעפילט מיט רעליגיעזן אינהאַלט. דאָס זיינען די טעג ווען יעדער מענטש ווערט ג'משפט אין הימל און זיין גורל באַשטימט פאַרן קומענדיקן יאָר. דער מענטש דאַרף זיך פאַרטראַכטן וועגן זיינע מעשים און חרטה האָבן אויף זיינע זינד. א סך תפילות פאַר די יום-טובים זיינען פאַרפאַסט געוואָרן שוין אין צייט פון גלות בבל.

מיט דער ווייטערדיקער אַנטוויקלונג פון דער יידישער געשיכטע, קומען צו אַלץ מער רעליגיעזע, מאַראַלישע און עטישע אַריינטייטשונגען אין די יום-טובים פון ראש השנה און יום כּפּור. רבי יהושוע, דער תלמיד פון רבי יוחנן בן זכאי וויינט אויפן חורבן פון בית המקדש: „עס איז ניטאָ מער דער פלאַץ וואו גאָט זאָל מוחל זיין די זינד פון די יידן". „וויין ניט מיין זון", ענטפערט אים רבי יוחנן בן זכאי, „עס איז דאָ נאָך אַ וועג ווי די זינד זאָלן פאַרגעבן ווערן. דאָס איז טאָן גוטס פאַר דער מענטשהייט" עס שטייט געשריבן, אַז „גאָט פאַרלאַנגט ניט קיין קרבנות, נאָר מעשים טובים". אויך, אַז גאָט קען מוחל זיין די זינד, וועלכע דער מענטש איז באַגאַנגען קעגן אים, אָבער די זינד פון איין מענטש קעגן צווייטן קען בלויז מוחל זיין דער באַאָוולהיטער אַליין.

אויך תפילות פון טרויעריקע געשעענישן זיינען פאַרבונדן מיט יום כּפּור. די תפילה פאַר די עשרה הרוגי מלכות, ווי אויך פון שפעטערדיקע פעריאָדן, ווי כל נדרי, וואָס ווערט פאַרבונדן מיט דער צייט פון דער שפּאַנישער אינקוויזיציע.

פון די דריי יום-טובים, וועלכע קומען איינער נאָכן צוויטן איז סוכות פאַרבליבן דער פייערלעכסטער און מער ווי די אַנדערע אויפגעהאַלטן די סמנים פון אַ נאַטור יום-טוב. דאָס עסן אין סוכה, די באָפוצונגען פון סכך און פרוכט, די סימבאָלן פון לולב און אתרוג, די צערעמאָניע פון גיסן וואַסער און קלאַפן הושענות -- דאָס אַלץ זיינען פאַרבליבענע מנהגים פון דער ווייטער פאַרגאַנגענהייט, וועלכע זיינען געווען פאַרבונדן מיט ערד-אַרבעט, מיט אויסבעטן געגנוג וואַסער און פרוכטבאַרקייט. אין דער דיאַספּאָרא איז אויך צוגעגעבן געוואָרן אַ 9-טער טאָג צום יום-טוב -- דער טאָג פון שמחת תורה. די תורה אַנשטאָט די ערד איז געוואָרן דער סימבאָל פון צוזאַמענהאַלטן דאָס פאָלק.

די יידישע יום-טובים האָבן געשפילט אַ וויכטיקע ראָל אין לעבן פון פאָלק אין אַלע צייטן. אַ גרויסן אָרט פאַרנעמען די יום-טובים אין דער אַלטער, ווי אויך אין דער מאָדערנער יידישער ליטעראַטור. זיי האָבן צוזאַמענגעבונדן דאָס פאָלק, געשטאַלטיקט דעם יידישן לעבנסשטייגער אין די פאַרשיידענע לענדער און פאַרשיידענע צייטן, געשטאַרקט די מאָראַל און אָנגעהאַלטן דעם זכרון פון פאָלק. ניט אומזיסט הייסט ראש השנה אויך יום הזכרון.

וועלן יידן אויך היינטיקס יאָר געדענקען דאָס פאַרגאַנגענע, טראַכטן וועגן דער צוקונפט און אין דער קעגנווארט זיךווינטשן אַ יאָר פון פריד, פון געזונט און פון שלום

Letters of recognition

JERUSALEM (JTA) — *Following are the texts of letters in which the Palestine Liberation Organization renounces terrorism and recognizes Israel's right to exist, and Israel recognizes the PLO as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.*

Yitzhak Rabin, Prime Minister of Israel

Mr. Prime Minister,

The signing of the Declaration of Principles marks a new era in the history of the Middle East. In firm conviction thereof, I would like to confirm the following PLO commitments: The PLO recognizes the right of the State of Israel to exist in peace and security.

The PLO accepts United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

The PLO commits itself to the Middle East peace process, and to a peaceful resolution of the conflict between the two sides and declares that all outstanding issues relating to permanent status will be resolved through negotiations.

The PLO considers that the signing of the Declaration of Principles constitutes a historic event, inaugurating a new epoch of peaceful coexistence, free from violence and all other acts which endanger peace and stability. Accordingly, the PLO renounces the use of terrorism and other acts of violence and will assume responsibility over all PLO elements and personnel in order to assure their compliance, prevent violence and discipline violators.

In view of the promise of a new era and the signing of the Declaration of Principles and based on Palestinian acceptance of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, the PLO affirms that those articles of the Palestinian Covenant which deny Israel's right to exist, the provisions of the Covenant which are inconsistent with the commitments of this letter are now inoperative and no longer valid. Consequently, the PLO undertakes to submit to the Palestinian National Council for formal approval and necessary changes in regard to the Palestinian Covenant.

Sincerely,
Yasser Arafat, Chairman, the Palestine Liberation Organization

* * *

His Excellency Johan Jorgen Holst, Foreign Minister of Norway,

Dear Minister Holst,

I would like to confirm to you that, upon the signing of the Declaration of Principles, I will include the following positions in my public statements: In light of the new era marked by the signing of the Declaration of Principles, the PLO encourages and calls upon the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to take part in the steps leading to the normalization of life, rejecting violence and terrorism, contributing to peace and stability and participating actively in shaping reconstruction, economic development and cooperation.

Sincerely,
Yasser Arafat, Chairman, the Palestine Liberation Organization

* * *

Yasser Arafat, Chairman, the Palestine Liberation Organization

Mr. Chairman,

In response to your letter of September 9, 1993, I wish to confirm to you that, in light of the PLO commitments included in your letter, the Government of Israel has decided to recognize the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people and commence negotiations with the PLO within the Middle East peace process.

Yitzhak Rabin, Prime Minister of Israel.

Deri resigns from cabinet post

JERUSALEM — Interior Minister Aryeh Deri on Sunday formalized his resignation from the Israeli Cabinet, but government leaders are still hoping to win the support of his Shas party for the peace accords reached with the Palestinians.

Deri, who is the fervently Orthodox Sephardi party's top official, made his resignation official at Sunday's Cabinet meeting. He had announced it last week in the wake of a ruling from the High Court of Justice requiring him to step down in the face of charges of financial misconduct brought against him.

After Deri announced his resignation, other officials of the party said Shas would quit the government, a move that would leave the other two coalition partners, Labor and Meretz, without an absolute majority in the 120-member Knesset.

But they did not say whether Shas would also withdraw its support for a historic agreement that would implement Palestinian self-rule first in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said at the Cabinet meeting that he hoped and believed Shas' position on the historic peace agreement with the Palestine Liberation Organization would not be clouded by its bitter feelings over the personal problems affecting several of its leaders.

Rabin was referring to Deri and to Deputy Religious Affairs Minister Raphael Pinhasi, who is also to leave the government, in the face of similar charges of financial misconduct.

Deri's resignation plainly increases Rabin's concern over the size of his majority when the entire Knesset votes on the peace agreement with the PLO next week.

Shas' two other deputy ministers, Aryeh Gamliel and Yosef Azran, have also resolved to resign in the wake of the High Court's rulings against Deri and Pinhasi.

But the party as such has not yet officially seceded from the coalition government.

Deri told reporters outside the Cabinet room that he was convinced Shas' spiritual mentor, Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, would reach his decision on how Shas would vote on the peace package purely on the basis of his talks with Rabin and with military leaders.

Coalition whips believe that in a worst-case scenario, Shas will abstain, leaving Rabin with a solid majority in the crucial Knesset vote.

At best, the whips hope, Shas will give its loyal backing to the agreement, and four Knesset members of the Orthodox United Torah Judaism bloc will also support it.

In comments to reporters, Deri spoke acidly of a weekend report that Attorney General Yosef Harish, who reaches the age of 70 this week, has told the government he will quit his post only after Nov. 1, in order to complete the process of stripping Deri of his parliamentary immunity.

Harish has long maintained that both Deri and Pinhasi, who could not be indicted because they had the protection of parliamentary immunity, should voluntarily step down.

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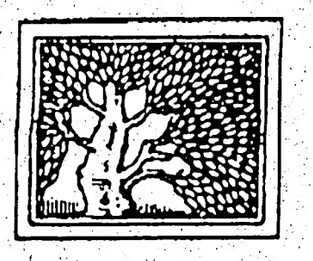

The Canadian Society for the Weizmann Institute of Science

On behalf of the Board, we extend to the Jewish Community our greetings for a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

May the coming year bring peace to Israel and the enhancement of her scientific and technological endeavours.

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World

Jewish leaders react to agreement

By JANICE ARNOLD
and PAUL LUNGEN

Mainstream Canadian Jewish organizations reacted with optimism tinged with caution to news of the agreement between Israel and the PLO, but Canadian supporters of the Likud movement in Israel came out adamantly against the process.

The Canada-Israel Committee expressed its "abiding hope and prayer that [the] signing of an Israeli-Palestinian accord on interim self-government will represent an historic turning-point in the process of reconciliation between Israel and the entire Arab world."

Daniel Pekarsky, national chair of CIC, said the peace process is just beginning and "Palestinians and Israelis alike will have to continue along the path of courage, understanding and commitment that they have demonstrated to this point."

Three organizations which participate in CIC took positions very close to that of the committee.

In a carefully-worded news release, Canadian Jewish Congress expressed its "hope that the mutual recognition package agreed to by Israel and the PLO will lead to a comprehensive peace in the Middle East."

Moshe Ronen, chair of Congress' national Israel affairs committee, said the Jewish organization "supports the democratically-elected government of Israel. If this agreement will lead to the end of violence and resolution of the Palestinian question, then all parties will win. However, we must emphasize the fact that action speaks louder than words. . . The Palestinians will have to demonstrate their commitment to peaceful co-existence."

B'nai Brith Canada also stated its support for the position of the Israeli government. In a letter to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, BB expressed its "congratulations and support for your courageous action of these last days which we hope and believe paves the way for broader understandings which will achieve Israel's goal: to be a Jewish state. . . existing in peace and security among the nations of the Middle East."

Nachum Wilchesky, chair of the national executive of the Canadian Zionist Federation (CZF), cited Rabin's comment that "if we're talking about peace, we have to make it with our enemy. We don't choose our enemies so we're dealing with PLO leader Yasser Arafat, as unpalatable as that may be.

"The general consensus is that we're very pleased with the leadership that Rabin and Peres have shown in starting this process."

But dissenting voices came from within the Quebec wing of the CIC itself. In Montreal, Neville Chamberlain was on Thomas Hecht's mind when he was asked about mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO.

Hecht, chair of CIC's Quebec region, recalled that Chamberlain relied on "just a piece of paper" as a guarantee of peace. Expressing his skepticism, Hecht said "the other side (the PLO) must now deliver. It must be accountable for its actions. Israel's security requirement must be respected. Israel must be stong; it cannot depend on NATO or the United Nations or certainly not Arab guarantees for its security."

He cautioned that "the euphoria over peace" is premature. He doubted whether Palestinian terrorism would stop or that the PLO is "indeed the representative of the Arabs in the territory referred to as Palestine."

Another cautionary voice was sounded by Rabbi Reuben Poupko, who said "time will tell just what good [the peace pact] will do for Israel. I do not believe utopia will come overnight in the Middle East."

Rabbi Poupko, spiritual leader of the Beth Israel Beth Aaron Congregation, said he was was not convinced that the PLO, which has been "sworn to the destruction of Israel," had suddenly changed. He also wondered to what extent ordinary Palestinians were dedicated to peace with Jews.

Fred Krantz, director of the Canadian Institute for Jewish Research, said he had received "scores" of calls from people who were "very anxious and upset" that Israel is making peace with Arafat.

"These concerns are proper. We should not be messianic or starry-eyed that peace is at hand," Krantz said. "This is just the beginning of a long-term process." He said the path that Israel had chosen was "fraught with difficulties and danger," noting that Arafat may not be able to deliver, given the number of enemies he has in Gaza.

Lily Frank, executive vice-president of Canadian Hadassah-WIZO, admitted to mixed feelings of "elation and great anxiety." She said Arafat was eager for an agreement because the PLO is "bankrupt and going down the drain." Nevertheless, she believes "one has to grasp anything that will bring peace between not only Israel and the Arabs, but also the whole Middle East."

Samuel Shainhouse, president of the national office of Herut-Likud Canada, echoed the views of the Israeli political party when he said "sometimes somebody has to throw cold water on a phenomenon or it will run away with itself."

Shainhouse said the Israel-PLO deal is "like a con job by the world against Israel to [extract] as much as possible.

"My feeling is that they've been swept up by that tidal wave, including Rabin and Peres, and they've been taken in by Washington and the PLO."

He said the first results of the peace agreement were already evident in the killings of four Israeli soldiers and one bus driver, apparently by members of Hamas, which is opposed to the agreement. It's not even clear that Arafat can control the Palestinians, he said.

Mel Shipman, president of Canadian Friends of Peace Now, said he was "delighted with the turn of events. We consider it a major breakthrough which could . . . begin the end of 50 years of hostilities." He stressed that economic development in Gaza and the West Bank could give Palestinians in those regions some hope for the future and help erode opposition to any rapprochement with Israel.

Historic handshake between Shimon Peres and Yasser Arafat. [Photo taken from CBC TV footage.]

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The News in Brief

Bat Mitzvot Get Top Treatment

JERUSALEM — Reuma Weizman recently hosted a bat mitzvah celebration at Beit Hanassi (President's House) for 52 new immigrants from countries where the ceremony is not normally held.

The bat mitzvah girls — from Ethiopia, the CIS, India, Albania and an unnamed Arab country — were dressed to the hilt, some resembling brides, others in flowing white Ethiopian traditional robes and Indian saris.

"Feel at home," Weizman told them as a quartet played Israeli music. "This house belongs to all the people of Israel."

The girls, who had been prepared for the occasion for six weeks by rabbis of the Jewish Agency's Jewish heritage division, were accompanied by their families. Some of the immigrants had arrived only three months ago, the Jewish Agency spokesman said.

"We did not know what a bat mitzvah was. But my father told me that on Jewish holidays, the Jews of Tirana would gather secretly in the second floor of my great-grandfather's house to pray," said 12-year-old Hirsilda Matitya, who came here from Albania two years ago.

From the presidential residence, the girls were taken to a festive luncheon at the Hyatt Hotel and then continued to the Western Wall where they held the bat mitzvah prayer ceremony.

* * *

Vanunu Appeal Rejected

JERUSALEM — The High Court of Justice on last week rejected two petitions by convicted spy Mordechai Vanunu, reportedly relating to the conditions of his imprisonment.

Vanunu, a former technician at the Dimona nuclear plant, was sentenced to 18 years in prison in 1988 for giving photos and documents relating to the plant to a British newspaper. He is being held in solitary confinement.

The hearing was held behind closed doors, and a strict publication ban was placed on the proceedings for security reasons.

As a result, Justices Aharon Barak, Eliahu Matza and Ya'acov Maltz did not publish the reasons for their decision.

* * *

Cemetery Vandalism Protested

AMSTERDAM — Some 2,000 people recently turned out for a silent protest against the desecration of 25 tombstones at the old Sephardic burial ground in Middelburg, the capital of the Dutch province of Zeeland.

The vigil took place at the graveyard on the night of Sept. 1, about a week after the vandalism took place.

The desecrated gravestones had been daubed with swastikas and anti-Semitic slogans such as "Heil Hitler."

A group calling itself Nazi Front Zeeland claimed responsibility, but police have not yet found who is behind this group.

It is assumed that the perpetrators must be well acquainted with Middelburg, since this cemetery — where the last burial took place in 1721 — is nearly hidden behind backyards and gardens so that even inhabitants of the town are often not aware of its existence.

* * *

Israeli Spy Sentenced to 12 years

TEL AVIV — A colonel in the Israeli reserves has been sentenced to 12 years in prison for engaging in "serious espionage" on behalf of the former Soviet Union. A district court here reached the verdict against Shimon Levinson, 60, in a trial that began in May 1991. No details of the charges or trial have been allowed to be published but it is known that Levinson left the Israel Defense Force in 1983. He was reportedly embittered for being passed over for promotion. It was while serving the United Nations in Bangkok, Thailand that Levinson is said to have offered his services to the Soviet KGB, which he served from 1983 to 1991.

* * *

Israel Reverts To Wintertime

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Israel reverted to wintertime on Saturday, Sept. 4, turning its clocks back one hour as midnight struck.

The move, which sets Israeli time two hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time and six hours ahead of Eastern Daylight Time, follows demands by Orthodox Jews to facilitate Slichot prayers, which are recited in the early morning in the weeks preceding Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

* * *

Hungarian Leader Reburied

BUDAPEST (JTA) — In a move that provoked a wave of stormy criticism from Jewish groups here, the Hungarian leader who handed his country over to the Nazis during World War II has been reburied in his hometown.

Adm. Miklos Horthy, who led Hungary from 1920 until late 1944, died in exile in 1957 in Portugal and was buried in Gibraltar.

He had asked that his ashes be returned to Hungary when, as he put it, the country was "free from Bolshevik occupation."

On Sept. 4, 35 years after his death, Horthy was reburied in his hometown of Kenderes, in the eastern part of Hungary.

Jewish groups opposed the reburial, saying it represented an official rehabilitation of Horthy.

* * *

Rabbi of Bratislava attacked

NEW YORK (JTA) — Amid growing nationalist tensions in the new nation of Slovakia, the country's chief and only rabbi was attacked in broad daylight by two people yelling "Juden raus!" — an epithet meaning "Jews out!" used widely by the Nazis.

Rabbi Baruch Mayers, a 29-year-old U.S. citizen, was recently assaulted in the Slovak capital of Bratislava.

He was reported to be in good physical condition but mentally agitated.

Mayers, 29, a native of New Jersey, took up the new post in the Slovak capital of Bratislava last year, setting up a synagogue, kosher kitchen and study groups.

Leslie Keller, president of the East European Section of the World Jewish Congress currently in Budapest, sent a letter to the Slovak charge d'affaires in the Hungarian capital expressing shock at the attack on the rabbi.

* * *

JTA's Seal Going To HIAS

NEW YORK — After 11 years at the helm of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Mark Seal is heading to the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society.

Seal, of Princeton, NJ, will be chief operating officer of the Manhattan-based international Jewish migration agency.

Seal helped supervise the computerization of JTA's editorial and administrative operations, and a shift from coverage of breaking news to an emphasis on interpretative reporting. At HIAS he will handle a variety of administrative duties.

"I'm very excited by the challenge," said Seal, a Montreal native who attended McGill University and served as chair of the Canadian Union of Jewish Students. "The American Jewish community is a community of immigrants."

B'nai Brith Women of Canada
Wishes the Jewish Community a year of peace, health and happiness.

Arlene Fagan, National President

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Na'amat Canada

extends Rosh Hashanah greetings to all its members, friends and supporters.

May 5754 herald an era of lasting peace for the State of Israel and its people to ensure a future of progress and prosperity.

May Jews everywhere be blessed with freedom, happiness, and fulfillment in their lives.

Rhona Blanshay
National President

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By RABBI DOW MARMUR

Now, when anti-Semitism is no longer the most paramount concern in the Jewish world, our two fervent collective wishes are for peace between Israel and her neighbors, and for unity of the Jewish people.

Jews may be making peace with Arabs, but Jews are not making peace with each other. Israel continues to face deep inner divisions, now further exacerbated by the proposed peace settlement. And in the Diaspora, group interests often override the aspirations of the people as a whole.

The only time we seem to act together is when we feel threatened from outside. As external dangers diminish, so does our cohesiveness. Ironically, only enemies unite us. We are more adept at joining forces on the barricades than standing together at Sinai.

* * *

Theologically, it is Sinai that separates us. The division between secularists and religionists is over the question whether Revelation is possible, and the split among religionists is about how Revelation happens. In the absence of conclusive, "scientific" evidence, the matter cannot be resolved "objectively." The conflict is endemic to Jewish faith.

But the divisions are not endemic to the Jewish people. Reasonable women and men should be able to agree to differ. Unity need not mean uniformity. The fact that I do not share your beliefs does not mean that we have nothing in common, nor that we cannot co-operate on those projects where our interests converge.

But we don't. Jewish leaders are at times even afraid to sit together lest they be tainted by the encounter. In earlier times, lay people were more open to dialogue across denominational divides; of late, there seems to be less of this, too.

* * *

Machloches (conflict) is not necessarily unhealthy. People must be true to themselves and be allowed to articulate their own beliefs, as well as what they perceive to be the flaws in the beliefs of others. But it has to be machlochet l'shem shamayim, controversy for the sake of Heaven, i.e, human effort to articulate divine will.

There is little of it about in our midst. Our arguments are rarely of an intellectual or spiritual nature. Usually they arise over institutional, even personal, self-seeking and one-upmanship.

Another irony: Those who aspire to be the custodians of Jewish tradition, whatever their denominational allegiance, often distort its admonition to distinguish between disputes that seek to bring us closer to God, and quarrels that distance us from each other.

* * *

At this season of introspection and confession, it is important that we identify our own share in this sorry state of affairs. The propensity to blame others is part of the problem, not the solution. In truth, most — if not all — are guilty, for few of us are prepared to sacrifice a little of "me" and "mine" for the sake of "us" and "ours."

Though it is not realistic to expect public confessions en masse, it would be a healthy beginning if the organizations to which we belong embarked on an internal review as to what each could do to contribute to a greater measure of understanding and cooperation in our community. Let us start by purging ourselves of prejudice and ignorance.

* * *

It is with these thoughts that, on behalf of the Toronto Board of Rabbis, I would like to express good wishes for the coming year to all readers of *The Canadian Jewish News*. As we pray that the year 5734 may bring Israel closer to peace, let us pledge ourselves to work for the good of the Jewish people in unity and mutual respect, and in obedience to the commandment to be "a kingdom of priests and a holy people."

Rabbi Marmur is the spiritual leader of Holy Blossom Temple in Toronto and currently the president of the Toronto Board of Rabbis.

Jews protest Farrakhan speech

CHICAGO (JTA) — Jewish groups withdrew their sponsorship of the Parliament of the World's Religions earlier this month to protest an appearance by militant black leader Louis Farrakhan, who has made several strong anti-Semitic statements in the past.

The local chapters of the American Jewish Congress, American Jewish Committee and Anti-Defamation League, as well as the Chicago Jewish Community Relations Council, pulled out shortly before Farrakhan was scheduled to speak.

In a letter to parliament chair David Ramage, ADL National Director Abraham Foxman stated Farrakhan "continues to espouse and promote classic anti-Semitic notions of Jewish domination and control."

Despite the Jewish groups' support for the overall goals of the parliament, which met for the first time in nearly 100 years, "Our participation is incompatible with a presentation by one who has so relentlessly attacked one religious group and so consistently promoted divisiveness along racial lines," Foxman wrote.

The four Jewish organizations expressed their concerns over Farrakhan's scheduled speech in a letter to Ramage early during the conference, which ended Sept. 4. They did not receive a reply until the day Farrakhan was scheduled to make his presentation.

At that time, Ramage explained that Farrakhan was invited to speak by the African American host committee and that "the representatives of all faith communities deserve mutual respect."

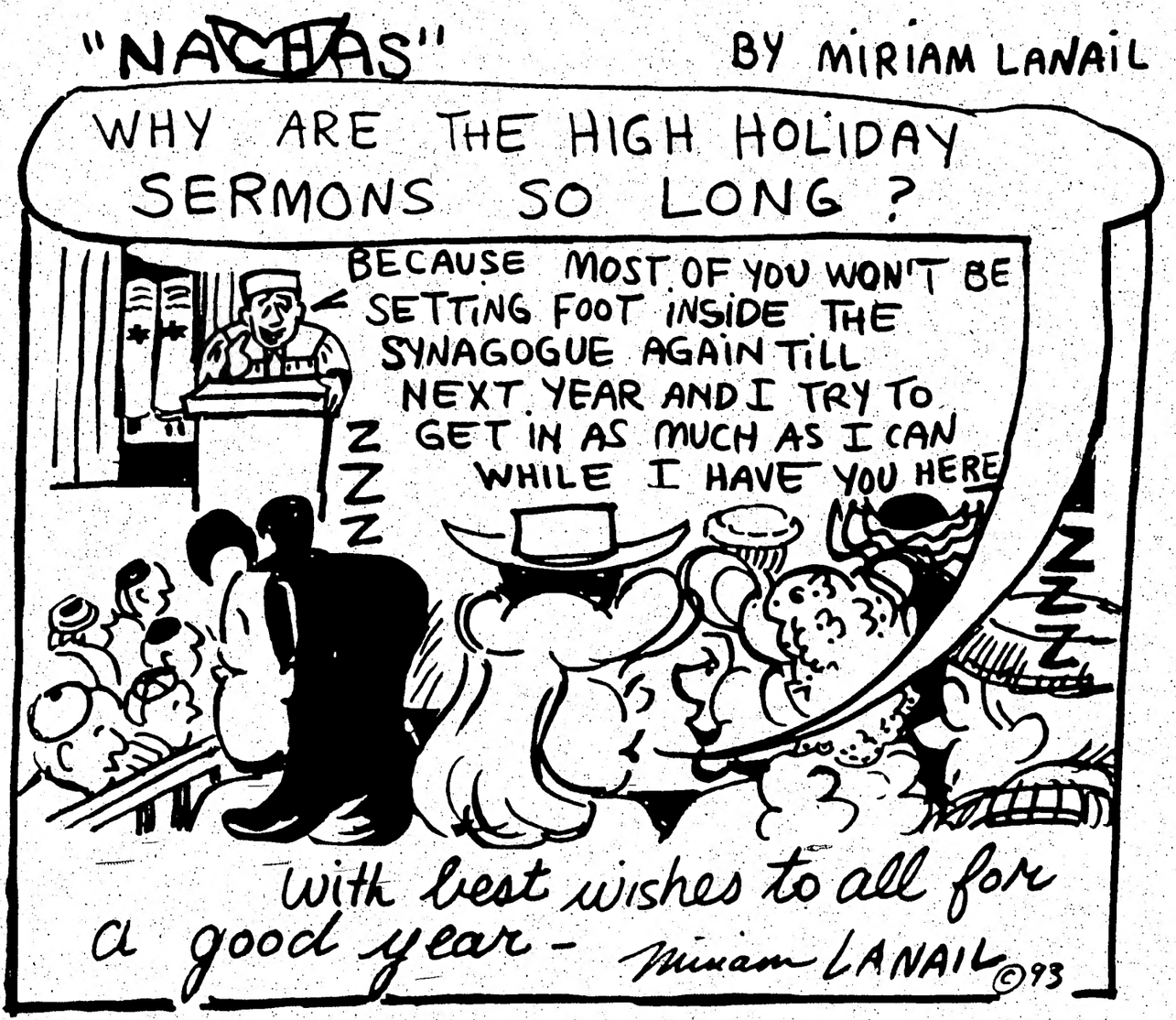
The Jewish organizations did not believe Ramage's letter adequately addressed their concerns and felt they had no choice but to withdraw in protest.

Farrakhan responded to the ADL's withdrawal by calling a news conference at which he charged that Jewish objections had led organizers of an Aug. 28 civil rights march on Washington to cancel an invitation for him to speak. March officials have denied that he was ever invited.

"Unfortunately, the same forces have not allowed us to be here at the 1993 Parliament of World's Religions," Farrakhan said at the press conference. "I think that they need to be told 'Shame on you.'"

Farrakhan added, implicitly addressing the Jewish community, that "we are going to demand that you stay out of our business and mind your own business. Since you are not going to help us deliver our people out of the condition that some of your fathers placed us in, then we are going to demand that you leave us alone."

More than 500 people attended Farrakhan's speech, many of them his followers, and his remarks were warmly received with a standing ovation.


"NACHAS" BY MIRIAM LANAIL
WHY ARE THE HIGH HOLIDAY SERMONS SO LONG?
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With best wishes to all for a good year - Miriam LANAIL ©93

Front Line

Fleshing out peace deal will require flexibility

By YESHAYAHU ANUG

What can reliably be said of the dramatic turn in the peace process, except that it took everyone by surprise? A handful of Israeli and PLO negotiators managed to meet for nearly six months hidden from the eyes of insiders and of the world's media. They produced the outline of a plan that will attempt to settle the differences between Palestinians and Israelis during a five-year period of experimentation, starting with nearly complete Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho. But will the plan work?

After recovering from the initial shock, supporters and opponents in Israel and in the Arab camp are mobilizing their followers. Opponents on both sides will likely build on existing emotions and mutual distrust to stimulate suspicions and fears. Supporters will have a hard time promoting hope and promising success, but are counting on the inherent willingness to compromise for peace. The campaigns will decide whether the sensational agreement will mark the start of a process of gradual conciliation, or be just one more wasted opportunity.

Now that the veil of secrecy has been lifted and the intention of both the Israeli government and the PLO leadership to come to terms with each other seems solid, the test will probably not be in the streets but in the field: To provide the so-far agreed principles with all the complicated details of implementation and start the new process. This is bound to be an ardous effort and will require no lesser imagination, flexibility and courage than the impressive skill invested in achieving the draft agreement.

The difficulties — many emotional, others objective — can not be understated. Still, the fact that for the first time in the 100-year-old conflict, common sense seems to be prevailing over fears, irrational thinking and taboos amounts — in words of a Vatican source — to a miracle. If the new approach will maintain the upper hand, the Middle East may within years become a laboratory for peaceful coexistence and unprecedented economic rebirth. For this to happen, more miracles are needed. Should the scheme fail, the conflict could become even more bitter. And the chances for either happening now seem even.

Yeshayahu Anug

Whether the itinerary to peace as indicated by the plan — one must assume that many details are still secret — will be followed precisely or deviate to some degree is not crucial for its ultimate outcome. More important is the new philosophy, the new mutual approach that transpires from the draft agreement. After all, it is important to remember that the scheme concerns only a five-year span of transitory arrangements and leaves the final construction of peace, the future of East Jerusalem as well as the ultimate destiny of Jewish settlements in the territories, wide open.

Both sides have wisely agreed that to discuss these issues now would be fatal to the peace process and have left them for later. However, in the weeks to come we shall hear many conflicting statements from opponents and supporters on the above issues. This is to be expected and should not be too discouraging. Both sides have their red lines and although some are cracking, the remainder are still intact, although unlikely to threaten the delicate process, once under way.

More important are the immensely complicated security problems in the territories. There will likely be outbreaks of violence between the struggling Palestinian factions, as well as between Palestinians and Jewish settlers, who will soon find themselves surrounded by the reality of Paletinian self-rule and internal conflict, though under the protection of Israeli army units. Control can succeed only in practical co-operation between the Israeli security forces and the Palestinian police that is to be established. Even if the idea of such co-operation seems unthinkable today, it should not be impossible, but not before Israel and the PLO establish an atmosphere of mutual recognition and confidence.

Obstacles and differences are to be expected even in a successful process. But prolonged slowdowns and the eventual loss of momemtum could endanger the outcome of the whole scheme and even anull it.

In conclusion, the draft agreement is the start of a new chapter, a little too good to be true maybe, but not at all unthinkable if seriously handled by both sides acting in good faith and enjoying the visible support of their respective constituencies. This support may grow if the broader public on both sides realizes that what may be ultimately obtained, though much less than they had been conditioned to expect, is preferable to the gruesome alternative of endless bloodshed. Will the Arab side submit to this logic? It has never happened before, yet it may happen now. Israel should submit, provided the stability of the present government is maintained or even strengthened.

Not much more can be said at this point. The existing agreement, despite remaining untested, will go down as a masterpiece of diplomatic originality and the most decisive attempt to change the course of Mideastern history. The agreement was made possible by the changing world situation, by the fallout of the Gulf War, by rising Islamic fundamentalism and by the weakening of the PLO. Such constellaions do not often occur. When they appear, they can be either ignored or grasped and the principal protagonists of the Arab-Israeli conflict have, without exception, a long record of missed opportunities. If the PLO-Israel understanding holds out, we may soon see quick results in the negotiations with Syria, Lebanon and Jordan as well as other significant changes in Arab-Israeli relations.

It takes courage and openmindedness, as well as frustration with the seemingly endless conflict, to turn your back on fatalism and start down the proposed road towards peace. Success can not be taken for granted, but one can hardly think of a bolder intiative and better prospects for the New Year that has just entered out lives.

September 1, 1939 spelled doom to Poland's Jews

By ISRAEL KOPYTO

It is Friday, Sept. 1, 1939, 4:45 a.m. The darkness of night still covers Warsaw's 1.5 million inhabitants. A frightened voice comes over the airwaves from the Central Warsaw Rádio Station. It is the voice of the president of the Polish Republic, Prof. Ignaci Mashtschitzki, bringing the following message:

"Citizens of the Polish Republic!

"The eternal enemy, the German crusader, has brutally attacked our Fatherland and is sowing death by a dreadful bombardment of open cities and villages in our country. God and history are our witnesses. Justice is on our side."

Thus began the end of Poland's independence, which had lasted two decades, and the end of the 1,000-year-old Jewish settlement in Poland, with its glorious history.

Despite the fact that for some months the political situation had been extremely tense and the prospect of war imminent, nobody expected the worst to happen so quickly. Nobody anticipated that in such a short time the Polish people would be embroiled in a war with Nazi Germany.

The president's news that Poland was at war against the mightiest, most formidable military machine the world had ever seen spread with lightning speed over all of Warsaw.

Like lava pouring out of a volcano, the human stream filled the avenues and the squares and public places, disrupting the early morning traffic. Jews and Poles intermingled in the thoroughfares, a rare occurence under the anti-Semitic Senatzia regime.

This spontaneous, friendly feeling on the part of Polish citizens towards Jews was something almost unheard of. It seemed that in a moment of trial, the old bitter hatred toward Jews was forgotten.

Huge banners, with appeals to the Jewish population, could be seen.

"Citizen Jews!," they read. "The common enemy threatens our joint Fatherland! Let us rise to the united struggle! To a complete victory for the freedom of Poland and all its citizens!" Thousands of young men, Jews and Christians, ran to volunteer for military service.

On Sept. 3 came the news, like a flash of lightning, that Britain had declared war on Germany. People in the streets went wild with joy. Strangers embraced and kissed each other. Thousands of people gathered in front of the British Embassy, their hearts glowing with hope that the Allies would bring early and quick relief in this moment of crisis.

The British ambassador appeared on the balcony to address the throng. His message conveyed the hope of a quick and thorough Allied victory. The crowd responded with enthusiasm, shouting, Long Live the King! and spontaneously breaking into the singing of *God Save the King*, which was like a prayer to Heaven.

As the huge multitude dispersed there was a feeling of eager readiness to fight the enemy. The populace was ready for battle.

On Sept. 18, Warsaw was completely surrounded by the German aggressors and mercilessly bombed from the air in prolonged raids that continued day and night without stop. Dead bodies were strewn over the bombed-out streets and between the burning houses. People crawled out from the shelters, when the bombing let up, to search for their loved ones amongst the corpses. Families were torn apart.

Warsaw fought bravely and unflinchingly. The enemy was calling for surrender, and when the call was ignored, the attacks grew more intense and more deadly. The merciless Nazis stopped at nothing. Thousands of bombs and tons of shrapnel were hurled at the city. The sky over Warsaw was filled with smoke and flames. Warsaw stood alone.

Poland's neighbors stood by indifferently as a nation was murderously attacked without a cry of protest.

Jews and Christians, each in their own way, called out to Heaven in their helplessness while hudled together in the shelters.

Like a flash of lightning came the news that on Sept. 17 the Red Army had crossed the Polish border. Nobody knew what it meant. Could it be that the Soviet troops were bringing the long-awaited help which Poland and her people needed in this fateful hour?

Soon came word of Molotov's speech explaining the advance of the Soviet forces into Polish territory. The Soviet army, he said, was providing protection and safety to the peoples of the Western Ukraine and Western Byelorussia (White Russia), which were helplessly deserted by the Polish government.

A few days later, after the surrender of Warsaw, came another speech by Molotov, this time addressed to the outside world:

"The artificial Polish state, created by the Treaty of Versailles, has, by the first powerful blow received from the German army, and subsequently by that from the Soviet military forces, collapsed like a house of cards."

Such was the "protection" offered by Moscow while a nation drowned in its own blood.

On Sept. 28, Warsaw capitulated. And a few days later, on Oct. 5, Hitler in person reviewed his victorious troops in a military parade in Warsaw, on the Allee Uyazdowski.

This marked the beginning of the physical and spiritual destruction of the historical Jewish centre of Warsaw, the heart of a unique Jewish civilization for a thousand years.

Israel Kopyto was a resident of Warsaw in 1939.

Israel remains fascinating even behind the headlines

By CARL ALPERT

There are two Israels: the Israel of the sensational headlines, featuring clashes with Arabs, and the Israel of daily life, with its human interest, trivia and humor. Readers abroad seldom get a look at this second Israel. Let's take a look now.

An Expert on Israel. When Jimmy Carter visited Israel he took great pains to pronounce Hebrew words correctly. And since he knew how to pronounce English words like knife, knot and knuckles, he referred to Israel's parliament as the Nesset, according to linguist Dr. David Gold.

Do They Know Something We Don't? Israel's insurance companies have this year suddenly more than doubled the premium for earthquake insurance.

The Post Office Sees Red. If you're planning a simcha in Israel, and are printing up invitations to be mailed in that country, do not use red envelopes. The P.O. won't accept them. Local mail is sorted by an electronic scanner, and the red paper causes confusion.

The Hebrew Language Finds Solutions. The man who serves drinks at a bar is called a barman. The Hebrew expression for that occupation is — barman. But if the pourer of the drinks is a female, she is referred to as a barmanit, giving the word a feminine suffix.

Driven by Desperation. Many kibbutzim are still struggling under the load of enormous debts. To help solve the problem, the kibbutz movement recently conducted a special course in fund-raising, given by professionals, to teach kibbutz representatives how to collect contributions.

The Bible Takes Second Place. It is reported that Mickey Mouse literature has been translated into 284 languages, some 70 languages more than the Bible.

Square Meets Circle has nothing to do with geometry. It is a love story, a delightful little novelty book of drawings, written in English, in which the principal characters are a square and a circle who seek to overcome apparent incompatibility. It is published by Gefen Books.

Halfway. McDonalds restaurants in Israel will use kosher meat in their hamburgers, but will be open on Shabbat.

Favorite Fruit (Vegetable?) This year's watermelon production in Israel will top 20,000 tons, making it the most popular vegetable (fruit?) in the country.

Where They Come From. Official records show 3,903 foreign workers from 71 countries, with permits to work here. Leading the list: From the Philippines, 1,239; Thailand, 305; Romania, 223; Mauritius, 162; and so on down the list. It is generally known that there are thousands more, who are not officially registered.

Beware of the Color Green. Research conducted at Kibbutz Geva, and documented in a recent film, shows that the color green tends to repress the sexual urge in chickens. The farmers prefer that their chickens show less excitement, settle down, and fatten up. Hence the use of all green canvas and plastic sheeting around the chicken houses.

A Cover-Up Job. Tel Aviv's municipal billboards blossomed out recently with huge posters advertising women's sandals. However, the sandals occupied only the very bottom of the poster; most of the space was taken up with a very shapely pair of women's legs, all the way up. Anticipating public objections, the city sought a court order to have the posters removed, but the two sides finally reached a compromise: the posters will be reprinted, and the legs will be adorned with a pair of shorts.

In Defence of the Little Man. Knesset member Yosef BaGad, of the Moledet Party, says he is fed up with seeing all the seats at public ceremonies filled with the same judges, Knesset members and other public officials and their families. He has introduced a bill in the Knesset to make it mandatory that at least 25 percent of the invitees to such ceremonies be from the ranks of amcha, the man in the street, to be chosen according to a system to be set up.

Editorial/Letters

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Rosh Hashanah 5754

The special Biblical precept that is most identified with Rosh Hashanah, as the late Rabbi Hayim Halevy Donin reminds us, is the blowing of the shofar.

During the celebration of the holiday in the synagogue a total of 100 notes will be sounded in three distinct tonal qualities: the long drawn out tekiah, the plaintive shevarim and the staccato teruah.

When the Israelites surrounded the city of Jericho in Biblical times, the shofar was blown in order to bring down the walls of that formidable fortress city.

The sounding of the ram's horn each year on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur has a similar purpose — to bring down the walls of deceit and self-delusion that human beings surround themselves in their daily lives.

Maimonides, in his Laws of Repentance, sees the shofar sounds as warnings. "Awake, ye sleepers from your sleep . . . and ponder your deeds . . . Look well to your souls and consider your acts; forsake each of you his wrong ways . . . and return to God so that He may have mercy upon you."

With the ushering in of Rosh Hashanah (which begins on the evening of Sept. 15), the theme of the Days of Awe requires Jews to engage in a period of introspection and self-analysis so that defense mechanisms may be pierced and masks uncovered.

Rabbi Avi Weiss of Riverdale, N.Y., the indefatigable defender of Jonathan Pollard, has pointed out that coming clean with oneself can sometimes be a very bitter experience. "Looking into oneself can be painful, especially if you have little to offer. Here again, the shofar teaches a lesson: words do not emanate from the ram's horn, but rather a cry, a cry whose sounds emerge from the breath of the inner soul, of the person blowing the shofar."

This is the purpose of the disciplined exercise of the Yom Tov liturgy — to assist the penitent individual to recover his inner breath and inner soul. The late Rabbi Soloveitchik observed that in some German congregations the famous Al Het prayer ("For the sin which we have committed") was sung with gusto because the community expression of sin — which is the hallmark of the High Holy Days — was considered to be an act of joyful solidarity.

The solemnity of the Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur observance is not to be confused with moroseness or melancholy. The shofar blasts which call upon all for repentance are not designed to depress but rather to illuminate and sensitize the sincere to the gap between spiritual potential and achievement.

G'mar Hatima Tova.

Pathetic rationales

In one of his last books, *The Drowned And The Saved*, the late Primo Levi wrote: "The crematoria ovens themselves were designed, built, assembled, and tested by a German company, Topf of Wiesbaden (it was still in operation in 1975, building crematoria for civilian use, and had not considered the advisability of changing its name)."

Few people had ever heard the name Topf before Levi made use of it. Now, more people than ever will recognize the name Topf since Gerald Fleming, emeritus reader in German at the University of Surrey, published in the *New York Times* and other major newspapers the record of interrogations carried out on March 5, 1946 of Karl Schultze, Kurt Prueffer and Fritz Sander, senior engineers at Topf.

These were the very individuals who designed and built the crematoria and ventilation systems which incinerated the gassing victims at Auschwitz-Birkenau and other places. During the whole of the interrogation they never once denied the truth of the killing process.

Asked how they could justify their participation in such inhuman acts, they replied that they were just doing their duty as patriotic Germans in helping the war effort. The Gestapo would have killed them had they stopped, argued one.

Another likened his activities to those of an aircraft construction engineer building airplanes in wartime since the planes "are also connected with the destruction of human beings."

It would be an exercise in absurdity to analyze the kind of mind capable of manufacturing the excuses which Prueffer, Sander and Schultze offered as explanation for their services. The same pathetic rationales were heard many times at Nuremberg.

What is significant, however, about the 47-year-old testimony is the stinging rebuke it offers, in its cruel honesty, to the anti-Semitic Holocaust deniers of today. The voices of Topf's engineers confirm the terrible reality of Jewish martyrdom.

NEW LAND — NEW LIFE

A Muslim father tries to persuade his son to speak to relatives in Bosnia during a call home provided to refugees by the Israeli Bezeq telephone company. During the past year, Israel welcomed both Jewish and Muslim refugees from war-torn Bosnia. [IPPA photo]

Letters to the Editor

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures.

HOLY BLOSSOM RECORD

I, and other members of the AIDS committee of Holy Blossom, have read the two articles written by Stephanie Chapman titled AIDS — A Jewish Problem?. While we are encouraged that *The Canadian Jewish News* is attempting to heighten the community's sensitivity to the immediacy of AIDS and the various issues that it raises, we are concerned about the impression that it leaves of the committee, its volunteers and programs.

The committee was established by the temple's board more than five years ago to initiate Toronto's only Jewish response to AIDS. Perhaps because there were no other programs for AIDS in the community, the committee has attracted volunteers from a number of congregations. Stephen Stolero's father, for example, is a valued member of the committee. He was welcomed, like all volunteers, without any concern about "infiltration."

We encourage the development of other Jewish responses to AIDS. Not because we don't want to be known as the "AIDS shul," but because we believe that there is a wealth of resources that can be tapped in and by other congregations. One small group cannot hope to begin to serve the varied needs that Chapman has identified — although we try, through public education, support groups, our buddy program and our Memorial Service and Seder for AIDS. The fact that participation in our seder for AIDS has swelled to over 150 in just three years suggests that a Jewish response is needed and can work.

It is unfortunate that the somewhat critical views expressed by two individuals should figure so prominently in the introductory paragraphs of both articles, without some acknowledgement of all that Holy Blossom, the committee and its many volunteers have managed to achieve.

Jonathan Lampe
Chair
Toronto

Editor's note: Read in context, the criticism expressed was directed, not at the Holy Blossom AIDS committee, but at the lack of response from other segments of the community. Furthermore, in his interview with Chapman, reported in the July 29 article, Rabbi Dow Marmur of Holy Blossom spoke extensively about the work of the committee.

* * *

DANGER ON THE LEFT

The CJN, like most of the better community journals, gives priority attention to the most obvious enemies of Jewish self-determination and dignity; Holocaust deniers, Aryan Nation, etc.

These specimens are certainly deserving targets for ringing condemnations, unending lecture series, and proclamations of "solidarity with other "vulnerable" minority groups.

Our most operationally effective adversaries have come from the left side of the political spectrum during the past third of our century.

An unholy alliance ranging from the rabid zombies of the radical left to legions of liberal yahoos who still dominate the media and the religious left wring their hands in self-righteous indignation whenever legitimate Jewish interests conflict with those whom they choose to adopt as today's mascots.

But these adversaries are infinitely more subtle and internally toxic to the weaker links in the Jewish community than the psychopaths on the right, who occupy so much media coverage. And they have a ready fifth column in the shrivelled rump of the Jewish left who go forth among us as self-destructive liberals, urging us to adopt a steady — state grovelling mode in any real conflict situation, e.g. the *Show Boat* affair and the Gail Pressburg — Quaker-friends of Palestine scuffle.

An agonizing re-appraisal of our position and strategies toward our earnest "friends" on the left, is long overdue. It ought to come from all shades of opinion in the preposterously fragmented Jewish community (but it won't) and should be translated into an operationally effective plan of action in the tumultuous times that lie ahead.

Norman Roth
Toronto

* * *

THE SPIRITUAL CHALLENGE

Re: Rabin lashes out at Jewish settlers in the territories *CJN* 19 Aug. You report that Prime Minister Rabin said, "In the last 15 years, we have learned the hard way that all our operations in Lebanon did not eliminate terrorism there. The only way to eliminate terrorism is through a combination of military and political means." It is obvious that military means have failed to eliminate terrorism but it hardly seems likely that political means will do any better.

The leader of Sudan's National Islamic Front has allegedly (*The New York Times* Aug. 22, 1993) boasted that the West "is even more apprehensive about Islam than it was about communism, because while it knows how to deal with material challenges, it has no idea how to go about facing a spiritual challenge."

This is true of the "West" and true of the State of Israel where the establishment in Jerusalem, of no matter what political party, still doesn't get it.

Israel has inherited the Book of Psalms wherein we find (44:6 and 7) "Through Thee do we push down our adversaries; Through Thy name do we tread them under that rise up against us. For I trust not in my bow, Neither can my sword save me."

Avigdor Parnass
Montreal

* * *

THE GIVAT HAVIVA STORY

We were very pleased to read Sheldon Kirshner's fine article on the excellent work of Givat Haviva in Israel, and we trust that readers will agree that the difficult task of building bridges based on mutual respect is of special significance at this time.

Readers are invited to contact Canadian Friends of Givat Haviva, 1111 Finch Ave. West, Downsview Tel/Fax (416) 736-1405 about Givat Haviva activities in Israel and Canada.

Lipa Roth
President,
Tuvia Liberman
Overseas Representative
Toronto

Opinion

Ten years of weekly columns remains rewarding

By RABBI W. GUNTHER PLAUT

As these lines are being written, dramatic events have taken place in the Middle East. A breakthough in the peace negotiations between Israel and the Arabs seems to be in the making. But it is too early to comment on it and I will have to wait until after the New Year begins. In any case, great hopes and fears have been kindled on both sides, supporters and opponents have taken to the streets and to the airwaves. We are all waiting with bated breath.

Meanwhile, it's as good a time as any for sharing with you some small items from my odds-and-ends collection.

• *Travel to Israel.* One of our readers commented on my suggestion that every Jew ought to try to visit Israel at least once in his/her lifetime (and of course oftener, if possible). Here is one response:

"This opinion should be read to every congregation until the results are visible, for if we don't support Israel, who will?"

But then the writer goes on to say that he finds the trip to be more costly than he can afford. He had thought of taking his children there for their bar/bat mitzvah, but upon inquiry came to understand that indeed "it's expensive to be Jewish." With the recession hitting him hard, he had to resign from his synagogue, he writes, and to pull his children out from the day school.

Rabbi Plaut

Still, he adds, "your idea is right, but a way has to be found to reduce [the price of] travel to Israel, or I'm afraid many who want to go there won't be able to afford it." Any suggestions?

• *Peace Prize.* Not long ago a small village in Israel, Neve Shalom, was awarded the Tenth Niwano Peace Prize in Tokyo. It was worth $180,000 U.S. What caused this award to be bestowed on this little-known community?

The village, whose Arabic name is Wahat al-Salam appears to be the only one of its kind which is fully Arab-Jewish. Structured as an "oasis for peace," as its name suggests, it is an experiment in neighborly amity: two different cultural and religious groups living side-by-side. The experiment shows it can work.

• *Balfour and Weizmann.* Concerning a column on Germany which I had written last spring, a friend in New York sent me a copy of a page from Blanche Dugdale's biography of Lord Arthur James Balfour, written in 1937. The page deals with a conversation which Dr. Chaim Weizmann had in December 1914 with Balfour, who at that time was not a member of the British government. Weizmann was then a Zionist leader and a professional chemist.

They discussed the nature of German anti-Semitism, and Balfour related a talk he had with Cosima Wagner, who had married the famous composer in 1870. She repeated the myth that it was the Jews themselves who were responsible for German antipathy toward them. She complained that "Jews had captured the stage, the press, the universities and commerce, and she expressed the resentment of Germany at being obliged to receive all culture at Jewish hands."

Weizmann thereupon remarked to Balfour that "here was the very crux of the Jewish tragedy." The Jews were giving their energy to Germany, but they did not do it specifically as Jews. They put their brains at Germany's disposal, yet were not accepted as Germans. This made them, in Weizmann's analysis, "the most exploited and most misunderstood of peoples."

Balfour was greatly struck by this, for he had never met non-British Jews. He then asked a momentous question: Could he help Weizmann in any way? The latter answered: "Not while the guns are roaring. When the military situation becomes clearer I will come again."

"Mind you come again," said Balfour. "It is a great cause you are working for. I would like you to come again and again."

Weizmann did, but not until 1916. In time Balfour became Foreign Secretary and on November 2, 1917 issued the famous declaration that bears his name.

• Last July 1 it was ten years since I had begun my regular weekly columns for the *Canadian Jewish News*. My friend Ray Wolfe had asked me often to make my occasional pieces a regular feature, but I was president of Canadian Jewish Congress at the time and did not feel that I should combine that office with a journalistic function. So, when I finished my term in May 1983 and handed the gavel to Irwin Cotler, I was ready to take up Ray's challenge.

The ten years have flown by, and as of today I have written more than 500 pieces. It has been a rewarding labor, and I want to take this opportunity to thank you, my readers, for your loyalty and response. A shanah tovah to all of you, with the hope that there is genuine light at the end of the tunnel.

War and peace high on agenda in Jewish ridings

[First in a series on Canadian campaign issues of particular interest to the Jewish community]

By SHELDON KIRSHNER

It's anything but a burning topic in the Canadian election campaign, even now that Israel and the PLO have entered into direct talks. But the question of war and peace in the Middle East is one that candidates in ridings with a significant Jewish electorate are bound to address.

Canada does not play an integral role in the search for peace in the Middle East, like the United States. But Ottawa is engaged in the process, as it has been for many years:

•A Canadian, Ivan Rand, was a member of the United Nations' Special Committee of Observation on Palestine (UNSCOP), which recommended the partition of Palestine into two states, one Jewish and one Arab.

•Lester B. Pearson, Canada's then external affairs minister, won the 1957 Nobel Peace Prize for his work in defusing the 1956 Suez crisis and in establishing a UN peace-keeping force in Sinai.

•Canada voted for UN Resolution 242, the basis of Mideast diplomacy since the 1967 Six Day War.

•Canada supported the 1978 Camp David Accords, the 1982 United States peace initiative set forth by President Ronald Reagan and efforts in the late 1980s and early 1990s to convene an international peace conference on the Mideast.

•Canada backs the 1991 Madrid peace process, and since May 1992, has been active in a number of multilateral working groups.

•Canadian troops have participated in peace-keeping missions since the first Arab-Israeli war in 1948. Currently, Canada contributes soldiers to several peace-keeping forces in the Middle East — chiefly the UN Truce Supervisory Organization (UNTSO), UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) and UN Iraq/Kuwait Observer Mission (UNIKOM).

Between April and December 1978, 117 Canadian troops served in the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

Since Israel's emergence to statehood in 1948, Canada has strongly supported its security, well-being and rights as a legitimate, independent nation.

But Canada also recognizes the "legitimate rights" of the Palestinians, notably their right to self-determination, to be exercised through peace negotiations.

Canada did not recognize the Palestinian state declared by the PLO in November 1988 in Algiers. However, Canada is favorably disposed to the idea of self-government by the Palestinians in the territories in association with Jordan. Ottawa does not exclude the possibility of a Palestinian state as part of a comprehensive settlement.

Although Canada does not recognize the PLO as the "sole, legitimate representative" of the Palestinians, a formula adopted by the Arab League in 1974, Canada upgraded the level of its contacts with the PLO in March 1989.

On a visit to Amman, Jordan, in March 1991, the then external affairs minister, Joe Clark, clarified Canada's position.

"Palestinians," he said, "have to be represented by an organization that has legitimacy among them. At the moment, that would seem to be the PLO."

But Brian Mulroney, the then prime minister, disagreed with that assessment. He said the PLO and its leader, Yasser Arafat, "have been substantially, if not completely discredited," by its pro-Iraqi stance during the Gulf crisis.

With respect to the territories captured by Israel in the Six Day War, Canada does not recognize the permanence of Israel's occupation of the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Golan Heights.

Canada opposes unilateral Israeli actions in the territories, such as the building of Jewish settlements. Canada believes they are contrary to international law and "unhelpful" to the peace process.

In this spirit, Canada opposed Israel's annexation of East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights. Canada holds that Jerusalem's status should be determined in Arab-Israeli talks. (In 1979, the then prime minister, Joe Clark, said he would move Canada's embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. But in the uproar that followed, he backtracked, and the matter was shelved.)

In March 1990, Yves Fortier, Canada's ambassador to the UN, said that efforts by Israel to settle Soviet immigrants in the West Bank, Gaza and Golan would "alter the demographic structure of the occupied territories."

Canada has opposed "one-sided" anti-Israel UN resolutions. It voted against Arab-sponsored moves to suspend or expel Israel from the UN, as well as the now-rescinded 1975 resolution equating Zionism with racism.

In the early years of the intifada, or Palestinian uprising, Canada took Israel to task for its handling of the disturbances.

In March 1988, the then external affairs minister, Joe Clark, accused Israel of violating the human rights of the Palestinians.

A year later, Canada supported a General Assembly resolution which condemned Israel's excessive use of force against Palestinians.

At the height of the intifada, the Canada-Israel Committee charged that Canada's UN voting policy had "slid toward increased support for the Palestinian cause, and decidedly away from Israeli policies."

The external affairs department disputed that analysis, saying there had been no change.

In January 1991, the then Israeli defence minister, Moshe Arens, painted a dim portrait of Israel's bilateral ties with Canada when he claimed that Canada-Israel relations have "nowhere to go but up."

Arens criticized Canada for having supported a UN resolution condemning Israel for the shooting deaths of some 20 Palestinian demonstrators in East Jerusalem. He was also critical of Canada's refusal to give Israel aid in resettling Soviet immigrants.

Canada disputed his allegations, as did his own prime minister Yitzhak Shamir. As an external affairs department spokesman put it: "We have to conclude that Mr. Arens was not necessarily speaking on behalf of the Israeli government and may be out of touch with our bilateral affairs."

Sweet and bitter balance each other at Rosh Hashanah

By ERICA MEYER RAUZIN

Rosh Hashanah brings apples and honey, a dish that is supposed to represent the sweetness of life at the New Year. But taste it: the honey is sweet, even cloying, but the apple — the good, shiny autumn apple — is hard, crisp, tart.

The message is that sweet and bitter balance each other. When life is bitter, we must remember the sweet moments, while a little tartness somehow adds to the meaning of those moments of pleasure and optimism.

Perhaps that's why there is always someone at a simcha who whispers, "Oh, if only Grandpa and Grandma were here to see this."

Perhaps that's why we warn away the ancient evil eye just as we praise a new infant's beauty.

Perhaps that's why the dream of the future that comes with Rosh Hashanah is punctuated by the stark, dramatic sound of the shofar, demanding attention to the here and now.

I think that the good times have been fleeting enough in our history to make us stop to consciously appreciate them, savoring the sweet while we have it to make the moment last longer and the dessert taste richer.

Thus as I see our 3-year-old son begin his formal education — toddling off to the pre-school nursery at our daughters' Jewish day school — I rejoice in his growth, but wince at how fast his babyhood has passed. He bounces out of the car with his two big sisters, toting his matching lunchbox, proudly lurching along under an empty backpack about twice his size. He doesn't need a backpack. All he brings to school is lunch. But when his sisters pick up their laden packs, he wants one too. "I'm so bigger now," he proclaims. "I need that." It seems like an extra burden to me, but it's all joy to him: that's the bonus of being 3.

Erica Meyer Rauzin

When the rest of us pick up extra tasks or add new worries, staying simultaneously aware of the joy around us gets more difficult. Yet, even in the midst of happiness, sad thoughts act as leavening agents in the back of our minds.

One of my deep-seated fears is that some day a moment will come when I look back on this time in my life, and think, "Those were the good old days and I didn't know." I am trying to know, every day, what is sweet.

I am determined to appreciate our new home, even as I struggle to maintain the sense of organization that came with moving in. I want to take advantage of the chance to maintain order — instead of having to sculpt it out of chaos. However, that little leavening voice of experience cautions me that I'll be doing well just to get it vacuumed weekly without trying to turn it into a page from a glossy magazine. Photo layouts do not depict homes with three children, two pets, and adults who are addicted to book collecting, magazine warehousing and newspaper hoarding.

I am determined to appreciate the sweetness of our children, scrubbed and ready for school, spiffy in their new uniforms, homework complete, healthful lunches packed. However, neither appreciation nor memory should be ruined by vision that sees only the sugar and none of the lemon. Reality will set in: uniforms will fray, homework will become tedious, making three peanut butter sandwich lunches will come to seem like a major culinary undertaking . . . and with all that, these will still be the good old days, because we are well, because we are together, because whatever trials await us haven't come yet.

Perhaps, as Jews, we have learned from our history to store up good times with deliberate enjoyment, to balance them against the worries, to taste the tart under the sweetness in order to make the sweet even sweeter.

If this autumn's apples indeed taste tart (my reasoning will fall apart if you buy sugary apples), Rosh Hashanah's symbolic snack sets a challenge with two faces: balancing the sweet with a deliberate bite of tartness, but also balancing bitter times with the remembered taste — and the future promise — of honey.

Here's wishing you the good old days, every day, this year and all the years to come. I still wish Grandpa and Grandma could see this day, but I wish also to believe that they really, deeply, saw their days as sweet and tart, and that we will too.

Features

A highly unusual settlement

The Jewish World

By SHELDON KIRSHNER

Sheldon Kirshner visits Oranit, a settlement which straddles Israel and the West Bank.

By SHELDON KIRSHNER

Behira and Yossi Molcho live in their dream home — on the edge of a volcano.

The couple's attractive four-bedroom Swiss chalet cottage, with its peaceful view of pastoral, rock-strewn hills, lies entirely in Israel.

But the West Bank, with all its political instability and endemic anti-Israel violence, is literally feet away, just past the sidewalk of their front door.

"I was worried when we came to Oranit," admitted Behira, a 44-year-old bank clerk and mother of three daughters and a son. "But after you've lived here, you see things differently."

Yossi, a 48-year-old El Al aircraft mechanic, had no such qualms. "It didn't bother me," he said.

In terms of its geography, Oranit is highly unusual. It may be the only settlement in the territories which creeps into Israel. Much of Oranit is in the contested West Bank, but about a quarter of it is located in Israel.

Compared to some other settlements deeper in the West Bank, Oranit's future seems relatively assured. The Labor government, which has sharply curtailed the building of new settlements on the West Bank, considers Oranit a vital "security" rather than a dispensable "political" settlement.

Lying 18 kilometres from Israel's glimmering coastline, Oranit, with a population of 2,500, is approximately 30 kilometres from bustling Tel Aviv. From the Molchos' garden, the twinkling lights of Kfar Saba, Ra'nana and Petah Tikvah are clearly visible. Around the bend in the road is Kafr Kasem, an Israeli-Arab town of 12,000.

Before the 1967 Six Day War, when the West Bank was under Jordan's control, this sector of Israel, with its extremely narrow waist, was exceedingly vulnerable to Arab attack. Today, it seems as safe as any region of Israel.

Oranit is more or less self-contained, with a community centre, modern shops and a medical clinic. A country club will be built shortly. Because of its size, most of its inhabitants, who are largely in their 30s and 40s, commute to their jobs. Behira works in Ramat Gan, one hour away by car, while Yossi drives to Ben-Gurion Airport, somewhat further off.

By any standard, Oranit is pretty. Its handsome red-roofed cottages, which would cost twice as much in Israel, spill into a scenic valley. Homes are spacious, with ample gardens and greenery. The weather tends to be cooler in summer than along the sweltering coastal plain. In short, Israelis can live the good suburban life here.

"I'm very happy in Oranit," said Yossi, whose opinion is shared by Behira. "This is what I was looking for — a larger home, privacy, a small piece of land. It was my dream."

The Molchos, who had lived in a cramped apartment in Bat Yam for nearly two decades, purchased land in Oranit in 1986. They lived in rented quarters, in Oranit, until their new, 160 square metre home was completed in August 1988.

Soon after buying their plot, Ofra Moses — a settler from the nearby Jewish settlement of Alfei Menashe — and her son were brutally murdered when an Arab threw a flaming torch through the open window of their car. "I had doubts about going to Oranit after that happended," Behira said. But practical considerations proved to be insuperable.

Dream home on the edge of a "volcano"

In common with a large number of young Israeli couples, Yossi and Behira looked to the Oranit area because land there was far cheaper than elsewhere in Israel and settlers could enjoy generous tax breaks doled out by a government intent on encouraging Jews to settle the West Bank and border areas.

In 1981, they had bought a lot in the settlement of Elkana, which is close to Oranit, where they had hoped to build a house. But their dreams turned sour after their contractor pulled out of the project, leaving them high and dry. Following this disaster, they turned to Oranit, which appeared to offer all the benefits of Elkana.

Strictly speaking, the Molchos did not choose Oranit to advance the ideological cause of Greater Israel. They were looking for a better life at an affordable price.

Yet the Molchos are strong believers in the Land of Israel creed. In the June 1992 general election, Behira voted for Likud, while Yossi cast his ballot for the more right-wing Tsomet party.

Both oppose territorial compromise for the sake of reaching an agreement with the Arabs. "There is not a place for a Palestinian state in the West Bank," Yossi said. "Jordan is the Palestinian state."

The intifada, or Palestinian uprising, has affected Oranit to some degree. Arabs have thrown rocks and stones at some of their friends' cars. No one has been injured or killed. Yossi still buys less expensive fruits and vegetables at Arab roadside stands, but Behira prefers to buy her produce from Jewish vendors.

Prior to the intifada, which broke out in December 1987, Arab day laborers working in Oranit were rarely supervised. Today, however, they are closely watched, a fence surrounds Oranit and privately-hired guards patrol the grounds.

"We've become much more careful," said Yossi.

The Molchos have no social ties with their West Bank Arab neighbors, although Yossi claims to have friendly relations with local Palestinians.

Merav, their 22-year-old unmarried daughter, has no long-range plans to stay in Oranit. A part-time student, she would rather live in central Israel. Her older, married sister resides in Petah Tikvah.

Behira, while pleased with Oranit, would pack up and leave should the West Bank be reclaimed by the Arabs. But, given Oranit's strategic position, no Israeli government is likely to relinquish Oranit.

Yossi and Behira Molcho. Israel is on the left. The West Bank begins on the road.
[Sheldon Kirshner photo]

When the Likud bloc governed Israel, virtually every Jewish communal leader in the Diaspora felt duty-bound to support Israel's security policy. It was an article of faith that criticism of Israel should never be made in public because such declarations could supposedly help Israel's enemies.

Not everyone, of course, agreed. The dissenters argued that they were perfectly entitled to openly criticize Israeli policy if they considered it short-sighted, counter-productive and unnecessarily provocative. These critics — who generally advocated territorial compromise and believed that the Palestinians should be granted the right of self-determination within the framework of an Arab-Israeli peace agreement that ensured Israel's security — maintained that such criticism of Israel was normal, healthy and democratic.

Their viewpoint, however valid, was not representative of large segments of Diaspora Jewry. The philosophy that generally prevailed was that Jews should either keep such opinions to themselves or, if need be, criticize Israel in private forums.

Can this mantra survive now that a Labor government is presiding over Israel's affairs, offering the Palestinians interim self-rule in Gaza and Jericho, negotiating with the PLO and hinting at large-scale withdrawals from the territories in exchange for a binding peace accord?

It's too early to tell. But less than two weeks after Israel announced the breakthrough with the Palestinians, some right-wing voices, who had previously equated open dissension with outright heresy, were already lambasting Israel. Was it a case of shameless hypocrisy or fear of the new realities which are impinging on the Middle East?

Shameless hypocrisy?

In a press release faxed to *The Canadian Jewish News* from Great Neck, N.Y., Ernest Bloch, president of an organization called Pro Israel, denounced the latest developments as a dire danger to Israel. As he put it: "... statements by the PLO in response to concessions made by the Rabin government are part of the PLO's strategy of gaining territory in order to destroy Israel in stages."

Norman Podhoretz, editor of *Commentary* magazine and a prominent hardliner, told the *New York Times* that Israel's diplomatic strategy would lead Israel into a posture "that, paradoxically, would require it to fight again."

Formerly a liberal who became an ardent apostle of neo-conservatism in the United States, Podhoretz actually launched his first broadside against the Israeli government last April, when the Madrid peace process was at an impasse.

Writing in *Commentary*, Podhoretz acknowledged he had taken "the position that American Jews had no moral right to criticize Israel's security policies; only those whose lives were on the line had the standing to participate in the public debate."

Explaining why he had turned his back on his creed, Podhoretz wrote that the "political and moral situation" had changed and that he had no alternative but to alter his views. He believes that Israel is walking into a trap laid by the Arabs who, he claims, are using the peace process to destroy Israel.

In a press release, Abraham Foxman, national director of B'nai B'rith's Anti-Defamation League, rejected his rationalization. Hewing to the traditional view, he wrote: "Israeli democracy should decide; American Jews should support."

Podhoretz is not the only American Jew who has publicly broken ranks with Israel. Several months ago, Harvey Friedman, the then vice-president of the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee, excoriated Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin for his willingness to cede territory. In August, the Coalition for Israel, a new rightist group, disclosed it had embarked on a nationwide campaign to persuade Rabin to call a referendum before Israel agrees to territorial compromise.

"Peace negotiations," declared its president, Howard Weber, "should really have very little to do with land."

But obviously, the Israeli government considers that claim fallacious.

Reform rabbi voices outrage

By NECHEMIA MEYERS

Jonathan Boyden, who recently died of wounds he sustained while on service in Lebanon, was the fourth son of an Israeli reform rabbi to fall in battle.

Jonathan's father, Ra'anana Rabbi Michael Boyden, regretfully accepts, the fact that the defence of this country exacts a terrible price, one which, in this instance, his son was called upon to pay. But he is outraged to see that religious life in Israel is dominated by ultra-Orthodox rabbis whose offspring never don a uniform, while, at the same time, official rabbinical status is denied to Reform and Conservative rabbis whose children share in the defence of the Jewish state.

Rabbi Boyden gave up a great deal to come here eight years ago. He left behind a very comfortable life and a thriving congregation in Manchester, England, but he, his wife and his son felt that "you can't be a full Jew outside of Israel."

In view of his family's sense of dedication, it was only natural that Jonathan, on being called up, should seek to be a "fighter" rather than a behind-the-lines soldier. So he applied first to be a pilot and then a frogman. However, in the end, he had to settle for an elite paratrooper battalion.

"Jonathan," Rabbi Boyden recalls, "loved life in the paratroopers, even though he realized the dangers involved. And while I also understood the implications of his frontline service, I never tried to dissuade him from doing what he felt he ought to do."

Bereaved Rabbi Moses Cyrus Weiler, who headed the Reform movement in South Africa for a quarter-century before coming here to live in the 1950s, went even further. He agreed to having four of his five sons attend the Haifa military academy, most of whose graduates serve in the regular army for extended periods. And not only did those four become officers, so did his fifth son and his only daughter.

He is proud of them, and his pride is still evident when you meet with Weiler in his old, booklined Jerusalem apartment, an apartment dominated by large photographs of his two sons who fell in battle: Major Adam Weiler, killed on the banks of the Suez Canal during the 1970 War of Attrition, and Major Gideon Weiler, killed on the Golan Heights during the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

While Weiler prefers not to discuss the issue of discrimination against Reform and Conservative rabbis in Israel, Rabbi Boyden is absolutely vehement about it. One example of that vehemence is the letter that Rabbi Boyden sent to the president of Israel, Ezer Weizman. "How is it," he asked the president, "that you didn't find time to send me a telegram while my son lay dying for two long weeks in a Haifa hospital, or even to send one after his funeral in Tel Mond? After all, you and all the other leaders of the state found time to attend the lavish wedding of the Belzer Rebbe's son, even though neither that young man nor the thousands of other ultra-Orthodox males at the ceremony will ever risk their lives in the defence of Israel."

Weizman has yet to answer that letter.

Advertisement

New Multi-disciplinary Approach to Therapy Helps Whiplash Patients Resume Normal Lives

For Susan Smith, an active 32-year old, the long struggle with pain began one day, driving home from work. Braking abruptly to avoid a child running out into the road, she heard a screech of tires behind her, and felt a sudden impact which snapped her head sharply forwards and then backwards, with what seemed like tremendous force.

Shaken but apparently unhurt, she climbed out of her car to inspect the damage. At first, the accident seemed little more than a fender bender, but that night however, she couldn't sleep because of a blinding headache.

Day after day the headaches persisted, affecting first her sleep patterns, then her moods. She became depressed. Worse yet, she began to suffer memory loss, and to have trouble concentrating. Her performance at work deteriorated. Pain killers, physiotherapy, massage - nothing seemed to help. Her family practitioner was puzzled. As a last resort, he referred Susan to the Whiplash and Headache Clinic...

Dr. Peter Rothbart, Medical Director, Whiplash and Headache Clinic
Clinic founder Dr. Peter Rothbart is an anaesthesiologist and an international authority on head and neck pain.

Headache relief can be almost instantaneous.
Dr. Vytas Zulys administers a nerve block. At the core of clinic practice, nerve blocks help break the pain cycle, allowing patients to resume some normal activities and start or continue other therapies.

Some facts about post-traumatic injuries

◆Whiplash-related injuries (technically known as post-traumatic injuries) are caused by the sudden and powerful acceleration and deceleration experienced in a car accident.

◆Even a minor accident can generate forces equivalent to eleven times that of gravity - far more than shuttle astronauts are trained to endure on launch.

◆A wide variety of post-traumatic injuries have been observed, including damage to neck vertebrae, muscles, blood vessels, nerves, ligaments, and the brain itself.

◆Because many post-traumatic injuries involve soft tissue, they can be difficult to see, even with sophisticated equipment like CT (computer tomography) scans or MRI (magnetic resonance imaging).

◆Physical symptoms can include chronic headaches, long-term pain in the neck and shoulders, physical debility and, in extreme cases, memory loss and hallucinations.

◆Psychological symptoms can include depression, anxiety, anger, loss of self esteem and sleep disorders.

◆In Ontario in 1991 (the last year for which statistics are available) 59,242 individuals were injured in automobile accidents.

◆Post-traumatic injuries cost Ontario residents an estimated $4 billion annually in medical bills, lost income and property damage.

Susan's story is a dramatization. Every day though, patients with almost identical histories are referred by their doctors to be treated at Toronto's Whiplash and Headache Clinic. Using a unique, multi-disciplinary approach to treatment and rehabilitation, the Clinic's staff are helping even patients who are seriously disabled by car accidents or other traumas to resume normal lives.

Until recently, doctors tended to be perplexed - or outright skeptical- when minor auto accidents resulted in long-term suffering or even disability. Often, physical examination, or even X-rays, revealed no trace of injuries. Many doctors concluded that patients were imagining the bizarre range of symptoms they complained of - or even, in a small number of cases, making them up as an excuse to avoid work and prolong compensation payments.

"Today, thanks to advances in medical knowledge, we know that post-traumatic injuries are very real," says Dr. Peter Rothbart, anaesthesiologist, international authority on head and neck pain, and Medical Director of Toronto's Whiplash and Headache Clinic. "Whiplash-related injuries, as this class of post-traumatic injuries are often called, can result in anything from a mild headache to sleep disruptions with nightmares, memory loss and long-term pain. To understand why, we must consider the forces at play in an accident."

Soft tissue damage can be catastrophic

In a typical auto accident, the head is suddenly accelerated backwards and then forwards at tremendous speed, stretching the tissues of the neck and back far beyond their normal limits. As a result, muscle tendons overstretch, ligaments and blood vessels tear and nerves can be compressed or damaged. However, because many of these injuries are to soft tissue, they can be difficult to see, even with sophisticated equipment like CT (computer tomography) scans or MRI (magnetic resonance imaging).

Post-traumatic injuries to the neck can produce bizarre symptoms. "Some whiplash victims become hoarse after an accident," says Dr. Rothbart. "This is not a psychological reaction to stress. The patients larynxes' have actually been stretched by the impact."

Some symptoms are apparently unrelated to the neck or back injuries. One common and very debilitating problem for post-traumatic patients is chronic headache. In fact though, a physical explanation does exist. Doctors have now learned that severe headache can result from damage to the neck or upper back.

Even harder to account for are the whole range of functional disorders patients complain of : memory and concentration loss, sleep disturbances or nightmares, loss of sexual interest and even the feeling of "not being the same person any more." While these problems may sometimes have a psychological component, there's growing evidence that many are caused by brain injury.

Brain damage as a result of whiplash-related injury

"In an accident involving whiplash, the victim's head is rapidly accelerated and decelerated," says Dr. Rothbart. "The brain, which is inside the head and cushioned only by a thin layer of fluid, will almost certainly strike the skull as a result. In some cases, the impact of brain tissue on nearby bone is very likely to cause brain injury. How severe an injury depends on where and how hard the brain hits the skull wall."

Because whiplash can result in such a wide range of injuries, treating patients can require a team of medical professionals with complementary skills. To bring together such a team was the reason Dr. Rothbart founded the Whiplash and Headache Clinic. Now, with 14 doctors on staff, and a network of medical and para-medical specialists available for consultation, the clinic offers what no other facility in Canada can - an integrated, multi-disciplinary approach to treating the whole spectrum of whiplash injuries.

Priority One - breaking the pain cycle

Although injuries and symptoms can differ widely, most post-traumatic patients have one thing in common: debilitating pain. Because of this, the first priority of treatment is to break the pain cycle, allowing the patient to return to some daily activities and to start or continue physical rehabilitation.

Management of pain has always been a special challenge to Dr. Lorne Greenspan, a specialist in emergency medicine and associate professor at the University of Toronto. Before joining the Whiplash and Headache Clinic, Dr. Greenspan served for many years as Deputy Clinical Director of Emergency Services at the Toronto Hospital. "Much of emergency medicine is dealing with pain," says Dr. Greenspan. "Yet, working with emergency patients on a daily basis, I was struck with how much there still was to learn about this important subject. I joined the Clinic because I was intrigued by its innovative approach to pain management."

Most of the Clinic's patients suffer from a combination of headaches, neck and back pain. Referred, often as a last resort, by neurologists, family practitioners or specialists in rehabilitation medicine, many have suffered for years despite courses of medication, physical therapy or other conventional approaches to diagnosis and treatment.

"At a patient's first visit to the Clinic, we take a very detailed medical case history, and do a complete physical examination," says Dr. Greenspan. "We ask patients to set aside at least an hour for this process. Based on our findings, we develop a strategy for treatment. The referring doctor is told of this strategy, usually in a detailed consultation letter, which explains our diagnosis and our proposed course of treatment. Naturally, all this is also shared with the patient."

Once a diagnosis has been reached, treatment commences. Although therapy is completely tailored to the individual patient, most regimens have four distinct components. The first of these is immediate relief of pain, usually through nerve blocks. Once this is achieved, the underlying physical problem is treated, along with emotional or psychological problems that have developed as a result of the original injury. Finally, attention is focused on long-term control of pain.

Nerve blockade stops neural transmission of pain impulses

At the heart of most patients' treatment is a procedure known as nerve blockade. This procedure inhibits incoming nerve impulses which are responsible for pain. Dr. Rothbart and his colleagues have developed and refined the use of nerve blocks for treatment of post-traumatic headaches. The technique has proved extremely effective, bringing almost instantaneous relief in many cases.

The process of nerve blockade is straightforward: local anaesthetic and an anti-inflammatory agent are injected into damaged or inflamed nerves, preventing the transmission of pain messages to the brain. Depending on the nature of the injury, additional injections of local anaesthetic and an anti-inflammatory agent may be made to "trigger points," injured areas which may be responsible for radiating pain.

"A typical course of treatment consists of one set of nerve blocks each week forfouweeks," explains Dr. Rothbart. "This may be followed up by another series of blocks within six to 12 weeks. After this course of therapy, further intervention may not be necessary for months or even years."

Once the pain cycle has been broken by nerve blocks, the focus of treatment shifts to correcting the underlying physical problems. While the Clinic staff includes specialists in a range of medical disciplines, the services of outside experts such as neurologists, orthopaedic surgeons, chiropractors and physiotherapists are also available through the Clinic's extended network of associates. Often, rather than supervise rehabilitation directly, Clinic staff will act as rehabilitation "coaches," encouraging and directing the patient to the appropriate specialists.

A co-operative alliance for patient care
Pain management is a two-way street. Doctors at the Whiplash and Headache Clinic refer patients to a variety of medical and para-medical professionals for specialized help. These specialists, in turn rely on clinic staff for assistance in managing their post-traumatic patients.

Treating the psychological injuries

Often, a patient's rehabilitation has a psychological as well as a physical component. "Chronic, debilitating pain can result in serious psychological problems," says Dr. Peter Rowsell, the Clinic's staff psychiatrist. "It causes feelings of hopelessness, helplessness, anger and loss."

Dr. Rowsell helps patients cope with the psychological consequences of their injuries through a variety of techniques including hypnosis, meditation and neuro-linguistic programming. He runs two group therapy sessions a week at the Clinic, teaching different types of coping techniques to as many as 12 patients at a time.

In some cases, the automobile accident itself can cause psychological as well as physical injuries according to Dr. Rowsell. "If you're involved in a severe accident, you may, at the time, really think you're going to die," he says. "This severe fright can result in problems such as driving phobia. Psychological injuries need to be treated as well as physical injuries which result from an automobile accident."

It is the Clinic's multi-faceted approach which accounts for its success to date, believes Dr. Rothbart. "There's no question that many post-traumatic patients need help in a number of areas to get 'back on their feet' physically and psychologically," he says. "Because we're able to offer patients a whole array of therapies, we're succeeding with even severely-debilitated patients who have suffered for years."

Since opening in 1989, the Clinic has treated over 6400 patients, with a high degree of success. The majority of Clinic patients have post-traumatic injuries, most frequently suffered in car accidents. "Our success rate in post-traumatic cases is about 75 per cent," says Dr. Rothbart. "This is very encouraging, because many of our patients have not benefited from any other form of therapy. Many of them have been completely rehabilitated. Others, while not completely cured, have learned to manage their pain and lead normal, productive lives. They are in control again, and that is what counts the most."

Organizations and People

UJA puts focus on Challenge Fund in '94

By RON CSILLAG

TORONTO — Officials are hoping that a new Challenge Fund, with plans to match dollar for dollar all increases in individual contributions over last year to the United Jewish Appeal, will help UJA reach its 1994 target of $40 million, the campaign launch was told last week.

Some 500 canvassers and volunteers packed a Toronto hotel last week for a day of training and motivational workshops on how to put the 1993-1994 campaign within the magic $40-million mark.

The Challenge Fund alone has the potential to generate up to $8 million, said '94 campaign co-chair Lawrence Fein.

Already, he said, there is $3.7 million in the fund and a further $11.5 million has been pledged to the campaign.

Together, the two figures put the young campaign 14 percent ahead of where it was last year at this time.

Similar Challenge Funds have proved successful in several U.S. cities. Here's how it works: Selected major donors and potential large donors are approached for significant one-time gifts, over and above their regular UJA donations. The point is to create a pool of money to match, dollar for dollar, all increases received from other donors.

Lawrence Fein

Lawrence Bloomberg

In other words, if your '94 commitment is $100 more than last year, UJA gets your additional $100 plus $100 from the Challenge Fund. Contributions that increase by 10 percent, for example, will actually mean an extra 20 percent for UJA.

The fund will be explained to all UJA donors by canvassers and through the mail.

Volunteers were implored by campaign co-chair Lawrence Bloomberg to make an extra effort in soliciting donations.

Services to local agencies which receive UJA dollars "have been drastically affected," Bloomberg stated.

The 1992-'93 campaign goal was $39.2 million. UJA ended its fiscal year on June 30 with $33.5 million in cash, up 11 percent over the previous year and its second highest cash total ever.

But because of the recession, unkept pledges and funds owing to Israel, communal agencies were forced to cut their budgets by an average seven percent.

Also this year, UJA donors will be mailed a survey to gauge attitudes on which services are felt to be most important, what people feel are the top issues facing Toronto's Jewish community and Israel, and how donors wish to be solicited.

Keynote speaker at the launch was Jewish Agency emissary Karol Ungar, who helped set up the Budapest transit route in 1989 and later co-ordinated direct flights from the former Soviet Union to Israel.

Ungar, a colonel in the Israeli army reserves, recounted his personal experiences in helping Jews flee the collapsing Soviet empire and the various ethnic clashes in the breakaway republics.

Issuing heartfelt thanks to UJA workers everywhere for "saving my life" was Irena Herkash, an 18-year-old girl brought to Israel from war-torn Sarajevo earlier this year.

BB Winnipeg to honor Asper

By MYRON LOVE

B'nai Brith Canada's 1993 Award of Merit recipient is lawyer, writer political leader and, most recently media magnate, I. H. (Izzy) Asper.

His CanWest Global Communications Ltd. now has television stations in Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, the Maritimes, New Zealand and Australia.

Asper has chaired Winnipeg's CJA campaign and served on the boards of the Winnipeg Jewish Community Council and the Canada-Israel Committee. He is a member of the Board of Governors of the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba and is a long time supporter of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. He is a past president of the local chapter of the Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University and currently serves as a governor of the university. In 1985, he established the I. H. Asper Hebrew University of Jerusalem Endowment to help and encourage Canadian students to study at the university.

The Award of Merit recognizes individuals for outstanding achievement in their field as well as leadership and involvement in communal activities. Previous honorees have included Manitoba Premier Gary Filmon (in 1991), The Hon. David Lewis, Rt. Hon. John Diefenbaker and Judge Nathan Nurgitz. Asper will receive his award at a testimonial dinner at the Westin Hotel on Nov. 23. Co-chairing the dinner will be Harold Buchwald Q.C., Lyle Smordin (vice- president, B'nai Brith Canada), Arni Thorsteinson and Winnipeg Mayor Susan Thompson.

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Environment, economy linked says Vancouver NDP hopeful

ELECTION WATCH '93

John Maté

By MAURICE LUCOW

VANCOUVER — John Maté, 47, is running in Vancouver South for the NDP, a seat held by House of Commons speaker John Fraser for 14 years. Fraser is retiring from federal politics and is rumored to be the next lieutenant-governor of British Columbia.

This is Maté's first venture into politics but he's been an activist for many years with Greenpeace, and is currently an environment consultant for a number of organizations.

He told *The CJN* he's gone into politics as a way to bring global concerns about the environment to the attention of the public. He sees a strong correlation of the economy with "sustainable environment," especially in British Columbia. And to back up his convictions he joined in recent protests on northern Vancouver Island against clearcutting of forests in the Clayquot Sound area.

Vancouver South is probably the closest to what could be termed a "Jewish area" in Vancouver, taking in such Jewish landmarks as the Jewish Community Centre, which includes the Federation offices, and covers Oakridge and part of Shaughnessy Heights.

Maté was born in Hungary. His grandparents were killed at Auschwitz and his father was in a forced labor brigade of Jews following the occupation of Hungary by Soviet Russia. The family managed eventually to emigrate to Vancouver.

In Vancouver, "I grew up with the Habonim," he said and took its machon program which included living in Jerusalem for six months and on a kibbutz for six months. This prepared him for work as a director of Habonim camps in various parts of North America. He returned to Israel just before the Six Day War, and when broke out, volunteered for service and was a guard at an Israeli Habonim camp. He was in Israel during the Persian Gulf War.

He has an MA in sociology from Simon Fraser University, a BA from the University of British Columbia and is a registered social worker.

As part of his activiism program, Maté produced a number of concerts and cultural events "to support my goals of peace, and environmental and humanitarian organizations."

Last winter he organized Fast Aid, a cable network telethon which raised $150,000 for Somalian relief. Or Shalom congregation members helped, supplying volunteers for the phones and conducting a Chanukah candlelighting ceremony as part of the program. A klezmer band supplied the music .

Later, he brought in famed clarinetist Giora Feidman, who gave concerts in Vancouver, Victoria and Seattle to help raise funds for synagogues in those cities.

His wife Noni is an educator and his 21-year-old daughter is in her second year at Hebrew University.

"I believe in a sovereign Canada," says Maté. "We need immediate action to protect our environment, control our economy and natural resources, provide jobs for Canadians, and preserve our social programs."

He's campaigning, he says, in a "non-traditional" manner by using mobile equipment to stop at street corners, inviting citizens to speak up on what they expect from government.

As a lifetime supporter of Israel, Maté says the current Mideast peace negotiations must be carried on to a successful conclusion, but without affecting the security of Israel.

He's in favor of the autonomy plan for the Palestinians, and is inclined to support the Peace Now version for a settlement, although he insists that only the Israelis themselves know what's best for the country. Peace, he said, will be good not only for Israel but for the entire region and is essential if the environment problems of the area are to be overcome.

Turning to multiculturalism in Canada, he said it's "one of the charms of the country" to have such a diversity in ethnic cultures. "Multiculturalism," he added, "must be supported with energy and vigor."

Discussing racism, which is growing in British Columbia, Maté said there must be zero tolerance for racial hatred.

As for war criminals still at large in Canada, Maté said the search for them must go on, regardless of a deadline set by Kim Campbell, when she was justice minister, of April 1994. "A criminal is a criminal," he declared, "and should be made responsible for his actions the rest of his life. It's easy to say 'let's forget and forgive' but when I remember that my grandparents died in the Holocaust, I find that an unacceptable philosophy."

The question of who Maté would be willing to support if the NDP winds up with the balance of power in Parliament came quickly: "Mel Hurtig's National Party of Canada and the Green Party. I'd be willing also to support the Liberals, providing they cancel the free trade agreements."

Younger Barrett hopes to join dad

PRINCE RUPERT, B.C. — Joe Barrett, 37, hopes to join his father Dave as an NDP Member of Parliament from British Columbia.

The younger Barrett recently won the nomination for the northwest riding of Skeena, considered a safe NDP seat, in the fourth ballot. He replaces retiring MP Jim Fulton.

"I'm proud to be regarded as a Jew," Barrett told *The CJN*. He is Jewish through his father.

Barrett taught French in the Yukon and in Alberta before taking off a couple of years to work as an NDP organizer in the north. Prior to that he lived in Spain for a while and taught English in Nicaragua, and speaks Spanish fluently. He is a graduate of the University of Victoria.

Skeena is a working class area with 25 percent unemployment, according to Barrett. There's a special problem regarding fishing: the American catch in Canadian waters cannot be processed in Canada. The fish are shipped either north to Alaska or south to Washington state, resulting in hard times for Prince Rupert processing plants. Barrett blames this on the free trade pact with the U.S., which he called a "lose-lose" proposition for Canadians.

Joe Barrett

Barrett said he supports the Middle East peace process and thinks negotiations between Israel and its neighbors must continue. "It's politically incumbent for negotiations to carry on and compromise made. Violence must stop."

Asked what party he would support in the case of a minority government, Barrett said it will depend on who has the most concrete plan to provide jobs. "We have a plan to put people to work," he said, "and that's the foremost consideration for a coalition."

He said he is satisfied with the approach taken by the federal government to promote multiculturalism. "All of us have grown up in an environment of a variety of ethnic backgrounds and cultures in our schools and in our festivals," he said. "We recognize the traditions of each group are important to estabish their identity. We must learn that no group has a monopoly on how to work and how to live with other groups. I strongly support multiculturalism."

As for racism, he sees it as an "age-old" problem and feels that education is the best way to overcome it. Children have to be exposed to other cultures and this must begin in the schools. "We are making some progress but perspectives and opinions won't change overnight."

Discussing Kim Campbell's pledge, made when she was minister of justice, to wind up prosecution of Nazi war criminals in Canada by March of 1994, Barrett said this isn't realistic. He said Nazis in our midst must be exposed and efforts to do so must be redoubled, without a deadline.

Joe, who is married, said his parents are happy he's gone into politics—"despite the fact it's a tough game." He said he gets some advice from his father. "We talk a lot on the phone but I don't rely on him to win the election."

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Organizations and People

New Beth Tzedec rabbi puts emphasis on continuity

By DEBBIE LIGHTSTONE

TORONTO — Toronto's Jewish community is diverse, vibrant and still close to its European immigrant roots and traditions, but it is beginning to face the problems of intermarriage and assimilation that are plaguing its American cousins.

That's the perception of Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl, the new spiritual leader of Beth Tzedec, Canada's largest congregation.

The American rabbi, who has just moved here from Albany, New York, paraphrased the defining slogan of Bill Clinton's successful presidential campaign — "It's the economy, stupid" — saying the equivalent for the Jewish community would be: "It's continuity, stupid."

"The Toronto Jewish community places great emphasis on Jewish day school education, and it has a reputation for tzedakah (charity) and support for Israel that is unparalleled in North America. The challenge is, as Canadian Jews become more accepted in mainstream society, will they be able to maintain their rich traditions?

"If as Jews we can't find a way to maintain ourselves, to ensure our continuity and our vibrancy, then we won't be able to be strong for Israel or for Jews in other lands," he said.

Moving from a 500-family congregation to the approximately 2,500-family Beth Tzedec hasn't fazed the 42-year-old rabbi. Just a few weeks into his new job, he's relaxed and smiling, yet passionate as he explains his vision of the congregation's future.

He's excited by the demographic mix of Beth Tzedec's members. The majority live in the area around the synagogue, which is on Bathurst Street just south of Eglinton, but there are also many families from the suburbs of Willowdale, Don Mills, Downsview, Thornhill, Richmond Hill and even Scarborough and Mississauga.

"I'm impressed by the intergenerational loyalty of the congregation. People can trace their history to

Baruch Frydman-Kohl

their parents and grandparents who were members of the two congregations that merged to become Beth Tzedec," Rabbi Frydman-Kohl said.

He hopes to implement some of the ideas and programs he pioneered in Albany, which promoted feelings of connectedness, belonging and intimacy among synagogue members.

"This is imperative, because most Jews live in big metropolitan areas and are connected to larger synagogues. If this gestalt, this feeling cannot be established in a large Conservative synagogue, then the Jewish community as a whole is going to find itself in a lot of trouble," Frydman-Kohl warned.

He feels that people, especially those between ages 25 and 45 who are in the process of putting down their Jewish roots, are looking for a congregation where they are known as individuals and where they can participate.

"Because Beth Tzedec is so big there is the impression of anonymity. But people have been very warm. I've found all sorts of small, intimate relationships here, friendships, family connections, people who work together. There is an underlying connective tissue that creates a welcoming environment, and I want to build on that," he said.

He hopes to achieve this by developing chavurot, small fellowship groups that will create a sense of intimacy.

"People can go to synagogue and to meetings, and yet not really know what's going on in other people's lives. But if you are in another person's living-room, with their family, spending time together, you get to know them in a sustained, personal way.

"Then, when a child is born, or it's your son's bar mitzvah, or someone in your family dies, the chavurah is there for you," he explained.

The rabbi also hopes to reach out and draw in sub-groups within the Jewish community which he says historically have felt unconnected, such as interfaith couples, gays, people with addictions and those with physical or mental disabilities.

[Cont'd. on page 34]

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NDP's Barrett fighting hard against new trade agreement

ELECTION WATCH '93

By MAURICE LUCOW

VICTORIA — Dave Barrett, the NDP Member of Parliament for Esquimalt-Juan de Fuca, is in a tight five-way race to retain his seat, but he's confident that his stand against the North American Free Trade Agreement will pay off.

Barrett's constituencey, which adjoins Victoria, is a labor-intensive area, as well as the home of hundreds of military families who live near or on the Esquimalt military base.

Barrett said that as far as he's concerned, if the NDP is in a balance of power position after the election, "I'll support any party that will cancel the Free Trade Act and NAFTA. That's one of my main goals and there's lots of support for it."

Barrett, who lost the NDP leadership to Audrey McLaughlin, was premier of British Columbia from 1972-75. After the leadership run he took a job as a radio phone-in host and developed a large following. However, the lure of politics was too strong and he ran for Parliament in the 1988 election, winning his seat by a large margin. His campaign manager at the time was Moe Sihota, now a member of the provincial Cabinet.

Asked by *The CJN* about the Israeli-Arab peace process, Barrett said he is pleased with the Israeli government's stand but is "disappointed because the Palestinians haven't got their act together." He said it's a shame that the Arabs who are working for peace are being "held for ransom" by the fundamentalist Hamas.

He said he is satisfied that Canada would give Israel any help it needs to speed up the peace process if Israel asks for it.

Barrett strongly supports multiculturalism and is pleased that the B.C. government has passed a multicultural act. He feels multiculturalism is a "counterfoil" against the American melting pot. He said that under a multicultural system the various ethnic groups in Canada are not just an amorphous part of the population, as they are in the U.S., but an essential part of the Canadian way of life.

Barrett was pleased also with the B.C. government's recently enacted bill to fight racism through the Human Rights Commission. All minority groups must join in the fight, he said.

As for Kim Campbell's statement when she was minister of justice that she would wind up the hunt for Nazi war criminals in Canada by April of 1994, Barrett said there should be no deadline. Canada must keep up the effort to investigate and apprehend those suspected of war crimes.

Barrett is keeping a busy schedule, campaigning not only in his own constituency but also lending a hand to NDP candidates throughout the province.

Reform candidate wants Syria to control terrorist group

VANCOUVER — Canada should be lobbying the United States, Britain, Germany and France to "turn up the diplomatic heat" on Syria to bring Hezbollah under control, says a member of the Reform Party.

Dr. Bill McArthur was in charge of a United Nations medical unit which served in the Golan Heights after the Yom Kippur War and is now the Reform Party federal candidate for Vancouver Quadra.

"Anyone who has stood on the Golan Heights and looked back over the upper Galilee understands why control of the area is vital to Israeli security," he said.

In an advertising column promoting his candidature in the *Jewish Western Bulletin*, McArthur wrote that prior to 1973, Jordanian and Syrian artillery sat on the hills raining shells down on the Israeli settlers. "The solution lay in the hands of the Cabinet and military chiefs in Jerusalem and when Israel was attacked in the Yom Kippur War, the IDF moved quickly to capture the Golan and terminate the rein of terror in the Galilee."

Today, he said, the situation is different. Terrorists in southern Lebanon fire Katyusha rockets on northern Israel. "It is predictable," he said, "that with weapons available from the former Soviet republics and Iran, the quality of these devices will escalate rapidly and IDF activities in southern Lebanon will provide temporary relief, at best. Hezbollah will regroup, move back a few kilometres and fire newer and more accurate weaopns on Israel."

Solution lies in capitals

That's why, he continued, the solution to the problem no longer lies in Jerusalem but rather in Washington, Ottawa, London, Bonn and Paris.

In another column on prejudice and bigotry, McArthur said racism "is probably the greatest evil that has afflicted mankind over the centuries." Canadians must speak out against "this terrible scourge" and as a society "we must start teaching our children from the cradle onwards that racism, religious intolerance and gender bias are totally unacceptable in a humane and modern society.

"As an individual and as a politician I am committed to helping eliminate these evils from our society," McArthur wrote.

In a phone interview with *The CJN*, McArthur, a native of Vancouver and resident of Vancouver Quadra since 1954, said if he is elected and his party winds up in a balance of power situation, he wouldn't support the NDP but "possibly the Tories."

He said he has a number of Jews on his campaign team and noted that there is a fairly large Jewish population in his riding, which is currently held by John Turner, who is retiring from politics.

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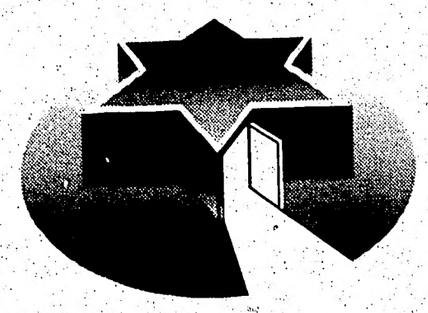

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Organizations and People

Appeal Court considers school funding case

By PAUL LUNGEN

TORONTO — Lawyers calling for government funding for Jewish day schools were given a rough ride as they made their arguments before the Ontario Court of Appeal last week.

John Laskin and Ed Morgan, representing five parents with children in Jewish day schools, were questioned vigorously by the five-judge panel. Chief Justice Charles Dubin asked Morgan what his position would be if three Jewish families living in northern Ontario requested funding for a Jewish school. Should they get their own school board as of right?, he asked.

At another point during Morgan's submissions, Judge David Doherty expressed concerns about a possible exodus of students from public schools to independent ones. Isn't that what happened when the province extended funding to the higher grades in Catholic schools?, he asked.

Morgan told the panel of judges that there are occasions when enforcing constitutional rights requires governments to spend money. Other provinces have established school funding programs with no detriment to the public system, he said, adding there is no evidence of any mass exodus of students from public schools.

Turning to the question of cost, Morgan said that as of 1991, the highest estimate for government funding for all separate schools (including non-Jewish ones) was $340 million, or 3 percent of the province's $13 billion education budget.

Unfair to fund only Catholic schools

Responding to Dubin's question about the budgetary impact of a possible court ruling, Morgan said the court should set out the parents' rights and leave it to the legislature to implement an educational program.

Earlier, Laskin argued it was discriminatory to fund Roman Catholic schools while denying that financial support to Jewish schools. Ontario's 148,000 Jews deserve equal treatment, he said.

The five Jewish parents, acting in concert with Canadian Jewish Congress, are asking the court to order the province to fully fund the education program in Jewish day schools. Alternatively, they are asking for government funding for the general (non-religious) portion of the school day. They are also asking the court to order the government to provide students with health care services that are available in public and Catholic schools.

A lower court last year dismissed their claim, prompting the parents' appeal.

Joining in the case are four parents with children in Protestant schools, who are supported by the Ontario Alliance of Christian Schools, which represents 73 private schools. Lawyers for the parents argued that funding private schools would have little impact on the public system since private school students make up 3 percent of the province's 1.9 million students. Public schools in British Columbia have not suffered as a result of extending funding to cover half the operating costs of private schools, the court was told.

Lawyers for the province have taken the position that the government is not obliged to fund the education of those who opt out of the public school system. They pointed out that non-profit Jewish schools already receive some benefits, such as exemption from property taxes, while parents receive deductions for tuition paid for religious instruction.

Best forum for harmonious relations

The Canadian Civil Liberties Association (CCLA), an intervener in the case, argued that public schools are the best forum for creating harmonious relations among people of differing backgrounds and that funding of separate schools would put the viability of the public system into question.

The Metropolitan Toronto School Board and the Ontario Public School Boards Association also opposed the funding request. They argued that many children would leave the public system if separate schools were funded.

Outside the courtroom, Ann Vanstone, chair of the Metro Toronto School Board, said that more than half of Toronto's students speak English as a second language and many would leave the public system for private schools if they were funded, *The Toronto Star* reported.

Another view was presented by Annette Edelstein, a mother of two children who attend Bialik Hebrew Day School who attended the appeal last week as an observer. Edelstein said tuition costs for both her children amount to $14,000 per year.

"I teach and the thing that bothers me is that if the 10,000 kids [enrolled in Jewish day schools] went to the public system right now, they would have to have more teachers and classrooms. . . We're saving them money by keeping Jewish children out of the public system."

Murray Segal, chair of a Congress committee charged with lobbying for public funding, said, "It is perniciously outrageous that the government of Ontario [continues to defend an area of gross discrimination in] not funding religious schools other than Catholic ones at a time when it is aggressively attempting to eliminate systemic discrimination in other areas of the economy and society, such as employment equity."

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Organizations and People

Bottom, from left, children of Nazis Rudi Raab, Natalie and Ilona Kuphal. Top, from left, child of survivor Damon Oren, psychotherapist Doris Epstein, Shirley Solomon and children of survivors Anna Kaufer and Lionel Liber [Ron Csillag photo].

Kids of survivors and Nazis to square off on Shirley Show

By RON CSILLAG

TORONTO — Had it with Oprah, Geraldo and Phil?

If those or any of the other half-dozen or so TV blabfests leave you feeling like a voyeur in need of a bath, tune in next Wednesday (Sept. 22) to the Shirley Show for an hour of the most riveting and chilling television on the daytime dial.

Hosted by format veteran Shirley Solomon, who was born in a German Displaced Persons camp 46 years ago and whose own mother is an Auschwitz survivor, this is like no other talk show you've ever seen. Entitled Children of Nazis Meet Children of the Holocaust, the episode brings together three children of one-time high ranking Nazis with three children of death camp survivors for a harrowing exploration of rapprochement, collective responsibility, mutual pain and anger. Especially anger.

The subject is deep, gut-wrenching and philosophically complex, one that has been addressed by some of the greatest thinkers of this century. What burden, if any, do the children of wartime Germans bear? Did they ever confront their parents? Can and should Jews forgive? Is it up to the survivors to forgive?

Because this is television and only an hour at that, the surface is barely scratched. Whereas Geraldo got his nose broken by neo-Nazis, this show makes a serious, sensitive and admirable attempt to get at the root of these vexing and emotionally-charged questions.

From the very start, the air hangs heavy with tension. The three Germans, all of whom now live in the United States (were there none in Canada available?) and are active in German-Jewish dialogues, come face to face with two Canadians and one American whose parents survived Hitler's horror.

Things go fairly predictably until the inevitable happens: a heavy-set, middle-aged woman clad entirely in black rises and pronounces, quite calmly in a German accent, that Hitler's mother was Jewish. Then she demands to know why Germans are constantly being blamed for things that happened 50 years ago. The bombshell comes soon enough: "There weren't even six million Jews in Europe! You're only interested in one side of history! I'm proud to be German!"

"How dare you?" shouts a distraught Solomon, who begins the program by tearfully confessing how difficult it was for her to even approach the subject. "I won't have revisionist history on this show!" Several survivors in the audience, their eyes lit up with disbelief, jump up and join the verbal melee. It's a sorry, sorry sight.

After a brief yelling match, Solomon gives the woman two choices: shut up or leave. The woman sits and mumbles, "I have Jewish friends and I love them dearly..."

In some way, the incident is necessary to put the whole subject into perspective. What to do when the work of quiet, right-minded Germans, such as the panelists, is underminded by boors like the woman?

"The deniers always yell louder and are heard more," sighs panelist Natalie, whose father was an officer in the Wehrmacht. Young Germans, she says, are not entitled to ask for forgiveness. All they can do is remember.

"We didn't choose our parents," offers soft-spoken Rudi Raab, whose still-living father was a high-ranking Nazi official. "They were thrust upon us. We've been given a legacy we don't want or deserve."

Raab grew up "surrounded by a wall of silence." He left Germany at a young age, fed up, he says, with his birthplace's "legacy of hatred." He feels "cheated" for not having had a normal childhood and father. Today, he seems uncomfortable with his self-described movie Nazi looks, complete with clipped German accent. To top it off, he's a policeman.

But the supremely ironic twist is that Raab now lives with a Jewish woman.

For a long time, says panelist Ilona Kuphal, she hated her father, a former officer in the dreaded Waffen S.S. Being a child of the Third Reich was "the biggest shock of my life."

"How do you think I feel?" counters Damon Oren, whose adoptive father was castrated by Dr. Josef Mengele, the Nazi Angel of Death. "I was raised in an environment of fear. I feel like a survivor too." Oren can barely contain his anger when he says that only his father and a cousin survived the war.

Children of survivors Lionel Liber and Anna Kaufer round out the panel. They are later joined by Doris Epstein, a Toronto psychotherapist who counsels members of the second generation. "There's a lot of pain in this room," Epstein observes. But talking, not shouting, about how to cope, about how to handle the anger, is a beginning, she adds.

By show's end, the viewer is drained. To the Jewish watcher, the Germans are at once appealing for their sincerity but tinged nevertheless by an awful lineage in which they had no choice. The children of survivors are at once frustrated, angry and in some ways, helpless. They too feel a burden because, after all, most of their forebears were murdered and they were not supposed to be born.

The Shirley Show airs on the CTV network (1 p.m. in Toronto). Check your local listings.

Watch it, tape it, or both. But don't miss it.

Family Matters

by

John Syrtash

Family Law Counsel

What and how do lawyers charge for divorce work? This most common and sensitive question is also the most misunderstood. Newspapers sometimes report how a Court has lowered a divorce lawyer's bill for overcharging. The public view of the divorce process sends chills down the spine of anyone about to approach a lawyer. A frank discussion is warranted.

Rates vary from $100 to $350 per hour, depending on the lawyer's experience, skill, and reputation. A low hourly rate may appear attractive, but a more experienced lawyer may do more or advise against unwarranted and costly action. Junior lawyers and clerks command a lower hourly rate for work that doesn't need more expensive attention. If there are no issues and all you want is a simple separation agreement and an uncontested divorce, you might persuade a lawyer to quote you a flat rate plus disbursements. I've seen some lawyers advertise very low fees for a separation agreement and not much more for a divorce. What may appear straightforward, however, often requires greater attention. For instance, you may discover that you're entitled to a slice of your spouse's private pension plan. When negotiation or litigation is required, there may be additional charges for the specialized services of business valuators, real estate appraisers, economists to value support claims, psychologists, psychiatrists or social workers to assess parenting skills. Without the right evidence, no lawyer can properly negotiate without being negligent. So get a rough idea of the disbursements as well as the fees to be generated. Finally, if you want to restrict your costs, write out your questions before an interview, don't fight the advice you're given, and ask for monthly statements!

John Syrtash is a Toronto lawyer whose preferred area of practice is Family Law and neither Mr. Syrtash nor B'nai Brith Canada is liable for any consequences that may arise from any party relying upon the information in this material. Mr. Syrtash can be reached at (416) 484-4646.

Material supplied and space sponsored as a public service by the Field Services Department of B'nai Brith Canada.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO VISITORS OF

PARDES SHALOM CEMETERY

Dufferin north of Major MacKenzie Dr. is closed.

To reach Pardes Shalom go north on Bathurst St. 3 lights north of Major MacKenzie Dr. to Teston Rd. (Note: Teston Rd. is on the West Side of Bathurst St. opposite Elgin Mills.)

Turn left on Teston Rd., proceed to Dufferin.

Make a right turn on Dufferin and proceed 1/4 mile to Pardes Shalom.

York Region has posted special directional signs to the cemetery - look for these signs to help you follow the above directions.

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IT PAYS TO INVEST IN ISRAEL

See page 37

Organizations and People

What's New

By
MIRIAM HERMAN

HOLIDAY DEADLINES

Please note these holiday deadlines for What's New and About People—

Wednesday, Sept. 22, is deadline for the Oct. 6 issue.

Monday, Sept. 27, is deadline for Oct. 14.

Monday, Oct. 4, is deadline for Oct. 21.

Saturday, Sept. 18

KOL AMI HEALING SERVICE

Temple Kol Ami is holding a special healing service at 10 a.m. for Shabbat Shuvah at Leo Baeck Day School, 34 Kenton Dr. **Rabbi Nancy Wechsler** of Temple Kol Ami and **Rabbi David Azen** and student rabbi **Margo Stein-Azen** of Newmarket congregation Or Hadash have created an uplifting liturgy of healing of the spirit and body.

Sunday, Sept. 19

CUMMER LODGE SERVICES

Continuing the tradition of holding a High Holy Day service at Cummer Lodge on the Sunday between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, the Mitzvah Volunteers of Cummer Lodge have arranged this year's service to commence at 1:30 p.m. with Mitzvah volunteer **Carl Rees** as lay leader, **Cantor Ephraim Sapir** of Beth Tikvah Synagogue and **Gordon Goodman** of Temple Emanu-El who will sound the shofar. For the occasion, the Mitzvah Volunteers will transform the Cummer Lodge auditorium making it the sanctuary of Kehilat Beit Avot, as they do twice a month for Shabbat morning services.

FANTASIA

The Community Integration's Shalom Centre is presenting **Walt Disney's** classic film *Fantasia* at 4 p.m. at Leah Posluns Theatre, 4588 Bathurst St. Admission is $3 adults, $2 children. For information, call **Luda Felik**, 631-5672. Bring your whole family!

GRANPARENTS SUPPORT GROUP

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren support group welcomes you to its first meeting at 1 p.m. Babysitting is provided for grandchildren in a separate play area. For more information, call 469-5471 or 248-2903.

PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

The community celebration of the North York Performing Arts Centre, noon to 4 p.m., is a chance to tour the centre and view the Main Stage Theatre, the Recital Hall and the Studio Theatre, and enjoy a day of fun and entertainment for the whole family. The centre is located at 5040 Yonge St. Admission is free. For more information, call Square Line 395-7350.

SCANNING LASER PURCHASED

The Lions of Metro Toronto donated $100,000 which enabled ERIC (Eye Research Institute of Canada) to purchase a scanning laser opthalmoscope and a poloroid digital fundus camera which will help the $1.5 million institute keep abreast of modern technology. The official opening took place recently at Toronto Western Hospital. Accepting the cheque is Dr. Bill Callahan (centre) presented by Bert Jacobs (right), district governor A-7, and Lion Arthur Veerasammy, immediate past district governor A-7.

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Monday, Sept. 20

RABBI PESACH SCHINDLER

Beth Sholom Synagogue, Canadian Foundation for Masorti Judaism and Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University present **Rabbi Pesach Schindler**, director, Centre for Conservative Judaism in Israel and associate professor of rabbinic studies, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, who will speak on Days of Awe, Yamim Noraim: Theological Encounters Between God and Man During the Holocaust. The time is 8 p.m. at the synagogue.

DIABETES CHAPTER MEETING

The topic of the Canadian Diabetes Association (CDA) Jewish Diabetes chapter meeting is Diabetes: Coping With Daily Problems with guest speaker **Anna Brundage**, co-ordinator, Diabetes Education Centre, North York Branson Hospital. Meeting takes place at 8 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue. Everyone is welcome. Admission is CDA members $1, non-members $2. For further information, contact **Esther Schwartz**, 782-2176 or **Shirley Glatt**, 225-1989.

NAGILLAH CHAPTER, BBW

Nagillah chapter, B'nai Brith Women (singles 40 plus), general meeting is at 7:30 p.m. at Barbara Frum Library, 20 Covington Rd. **Pam Albert**, dance therapist, will conduct a workshop on reduction of stress in order to increase wellness. All members and prospective members are welcome. For further information, call **Beverley**, 633-3203 or **Miriam**, 638-6493.

FAMILIES OF GAYS AND LESBIANS

Jewish Support Group for Families of Gays and Lesbians meets 7:30 p.m. in the foyer, Holy Blossom Temple. For more information, call, in confidence, **Ruth**, 763-9111.

Tuesday, Sept. 21

A DAY WITH WOMEN OF SCIENCE

Weizmann Women for Science and the Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto, are co-hosting an all-day scientific program aimed at a lay audience, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Park Plaza Hotel (lunch in the Roof Salon). Topics will include women's health issues, biological changes over the lifespan, personal and professional challenges faced by women physicians and women in science. Couvert is $50. For invitations and registration, call 733-9220.

DEBT DEFICIT HYSTERIA

At the New Fraternal Jewish Association meeting, **Prof. Donald Cameron**, political economist, editor of *Canadian Forum*, will discuss Debt Deficit Hysteria/What's Behind It? The time is 8 p.m. at 12 Heaton St. (Lodzer Centre). Admission is free and the public is invited.

HALF THE KINGDOM

Half the Kingdom, a film documenting the efforts of seven women who take on the Jewish religious establishment, is being presented by the Toronto Jewish Film Society series at the Leah Posluns Theatre. Following the screening, a question and answer session will be led by the film's producer/director, **Francine Zuckerman**. Doors open at 7 p.m. for coffee and refreshments with the film beginning at 7:30. Tickets are $7 at the door. For more information, call **Luni Bendayan**, 924-6211.

Wednesday, Sept. 22

JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Do you know who your great-great-great-great-grandparents are? The Jewish Genealogical Society opens its season with **Prof. Gershon Hundert** of McGill University speaking on Demographic and Genealogical Problems of 18th Century Polish Jewry, 7:30 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue. For information, call 256-1985.

GROUP FOR CHRISTIANS & JEWS

A group for Christians and Jews is forming at the University of Toronto to share their responses to the Bible. Read and Respond at U of T will meet 5:30-6:45 p.m., Seminar Rooms 008 and 009, Northrop Frye Hall, 73 Queen's Park Cres. E. For information, call **Rabbi Michael Skobac** at Jewish Students' Union, 923-9861.

Thursday, Sept. 23

JVS ANNUAL MEETING

Jewish Vocational Service annual meeting takes place 7 p.m. at Baycrest Terrace, 55 Ameer Ave. Keynote speaker is **Robert Hall**, a longtime volunteer contributor to the community at large, whose topic is The Price of Volunteering. Program also includes a visual presentation and the president's report.

THE MEANING OF PRAYER

Lifestyle Retirement Communities is hosting a lecture by **Prof. Arnold Ages** on What is the Meaning of Prayer at 2 p.m. at Forest Hill Place, 645 Castlefield Ave. Admission is free but seating is limited. Reserve by calling **Marlene White**, 785-1151.

And What Else Is New...

SUKKAH-BY-THE-WATER

Sukkah-By-The-Water, a Feminist Event for Jewish Women, takes place at Harbourfront's Tent in the Square Sunday, Oct. 3, 7-10 p.m. This year's festivity builds on the success of the 1992 event when 350 women from a wide variety of Jewish backgrounds came together to observe the Sukkot rituals.

Among the participants at this year's feminist ritual will be **Rabbis Elyse Goldstein, Nancy Wechsler, Sharon Soble** and **Cheryl Nosan**; cantorial soloists **Phylis Angel Greenberg** and **Anna Trubashnik**; popular singer **Bathsheba**; feminist writer **Michele Landsberg**; Orthodox feminist scholar **Norma Joseph** of Montreal; and New York author **Esther Broner**.

Tickets (advance sale only) are $18, $36 donor, $180 "Sukkah Sister." Funds raised benefit the New Israel Fund's efforts in Israel. To order tickets or for information, call New Israel Fund of Canada, 340-0507.

IN PREPARATION FOR YOM KIPPUR

In preparation for Yom Kippur, The Village Shul, in partnership with Aish HaTorah, is offering two lectures: Understanding the Machzor, Tuesday, Sept. 21, 8 p.m. featuring **Rabbi Ahron Hoch** and Yom Kippur-The Season of Return, Wednesday, Sept. 22, 8 p.m., with **Rabbi Yaacov Palatnik**. Lectures take place at the shul, 884 Eglinton Ave. W. Everyone is welcome. For further information about these and other programs and High Holy Day services, call 481-2383.

KADIMA CENTRE

Kadima Centre, a social, recreational centre for developmentally handicapped adults 18 and over, meets Tuesdays, 4:40-6:30 p.m. for Supper Club, and Sundays, 2-4 p.m. Come and join in the Welcome Back Dance and Open House Sunday, Sept. 26. You will be welcomed with open arms at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue, 100 Elder St. Phone **Suzanne Agasee**, 635-6800, for information.

MAZON VOLUNTEERS

Mazon Canada, a Jewish Response to Hunger, requires office volunteers. For half a day a week, each member of the office volunteer team works with the executive director and office co-ordinator providing a variety of back-up services including answering the phone, responding to requests and typing labels. Call **Marilyn Aarons-Guttman**, 783-7554.

THE REHEARSAL ZONE

As part of Arts Week '93 festivities, the Leah Posluns Theatre is offering the public an opportunity to see preliminary rehearsal activities during The Rehearsal Zone: Brighton Beach Memoirs, Sunday, Sept. 26, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Director **Reva Stern**, along with the cast of *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, will answer questions about the rehearsal process, followed by a backstage tour of the theatre. Space for this event is limited. Reservations can be made by calling 636-2720. The play will run Oct. 14-Nov. 7.

PHONE A NEWCOMER

The Telephone Language Companion (TLC) Program of the Community Integration Program is seeking volunteers to phone recently-arrived immigrants from the former Soviet Union. Phoners are asked to make a commitment to telephone an assigned companion twice weekly for three months to help the immigrant develop telephone skills. Call **Trudy Shecter**, 631-5680.

KADIMA SCHOOL

Kadima School, which provides Jewish education for the developmentally handicapped, opened Sunday, Sept. 12, at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue, 100 Elder St. Call **Ruth Kelman**, 635-0640, or the shul office, 633-3838, for further information.

FOLKDANCING AT THE JCC

The Jewish Community Centre North Y branch offers Israeli folkdancing for beginners with **Teme Kernerman** Sundays, 7:30-9 p.m.; intermediate classes with Teme Kernerman Wednesdays, 8-9:15 p.m.; and intermediate/advanced/requests with Teme Kernerman and **Eyal Antebby, Dori Levine, Laurie Marcus** and **Laya Skrzydlo** Wednesdays, 9-11 p.m.

[Cont'd. on page 31]

Organizations and People

What's New

[Cont'd. from page 30]

International folkdancing with **Sandy Starkman** is held Tuesdays for beginners, 8-9 p.m., and intermediate/advanced, 9-11 p.m.

Charge is $5 per session. For further information, contact **Teme Kernerman**, 636-1880, ext. 364, or **Elaine Burke**, ext. 273.

BBYO ADVISORS

Interested in being a BBYO advisor?. Contact **Yael** at the BBYO (B'nai Brith Youth Organization) office, 635-9411.

CAMP NEW MOON REUNION

Come and relive those magical moments at Camp New Moon 35th year reunion, Sept. 11, 1994. If you went to Camp New Moon phone, fax or write your name (include maiden name if applicable), address and phone number as soon as possible so you can be put on the mailing list and be kept informed of the details. Phone 731-9120, fax 485-0865, write Camp New Moon Reunion, c/o Norm Sobel, 21 Dale Ave., Apt. 735, Toronto, M4W 1K3.

COUPLE ORIENTATION

The Jewish Russian Community Centre (JRC) held a wedding orientation recently at the home of **Sheila and Harvey Hecker**, chairs of the upcoming Happiest Day of the Year wedding gala taking place Nov. 10. Fifteen couples, previously married by civil law in Russia, were introduced to the idea of a Jewish wedding ceremony. They viewed a video of last year's gala at which seven couples were wedded. As well, two couples shared their feelings and experience of partaking in a Jewish ceremony previously denied them. **Rabbi Yoseph Zaltzman** and the Heckers enlightened participants with a sense of Yiddishkeit.

Interested wedding couples and those interested in attending the gala wedding, call **Karen Garscadden**, wedding co-ordinataor, at JRC, 222-7105.

ISRAELI FOLKDANCING

Israeli folkdancing with choreographer and teacher **Marco Ben-Shimon** is held Tuesday and Thursday evenings at Vaughan Secondary School, 1401 Clark Ave., W., Thornhill, beginners at 7 p.m., intermediate/advanced at 8:30. For information, call 771-0363.

VENDORS FOR CRAFT & GIFT SALE

Vendors are wanted for a craft and gift show to be held at Bayview Village Mall (Sheppard and Bayview) Monday, Oct. 11, Thanksgiving Day, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sale is under the auspices of Beersheba Club, Na'amat Canada. Proceeds go to charity. Interested persons contact **Ruth Jacobson**, 636-5425 days or 764-8401 evenings.

JF&CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service is offering the following groups— Living With Teens (begins Sept. 20); Successful Step-Parenting (begins Sept. 27); Parenting the Young Child (begins Oct. 13). For more information concerning fees and registration, call **Pat Lieberman**, 638-7800.

AWARD GIVEN

Ronald Caplan, publisher and editor of Cape Breton's Magazine is one of eight honorees across Canada chosen for journalistic excellence and professionalism. This award, marking Hadassah-WIZO in Canada's 75th anniversary, was made in his name and took the form of a bursary presented to a deserving student of University College of Cape Breton, Stacey Clarke (left). Caplan received a plaque from Hadassah-WIZO of Canada at a luncheon hosted by the Cape Breton Council of Hadassah-WIZO. Presentation was made by Shirley Chernin, vice-president.

BOWLING LEAGUES

Come out and join Maven Bowling for its 11th season. This is a co-ed recreational league, ages 22-40, couples or singles that meets Thursdays, 7-9:30 p.m., starting in September. Call **Ron Caine**, 889-8333.

There are openings for the Ladies Wednesday Afternoon 10-Pin League and for the Couples 10-Pin Bowling League which meets every other Saturday night. Both leagues bowl at Bowlerama (Bathurst and Glencairn). Call 636-1533.

Couples Bowling Club is starting its sixth year. Come, meet new friends for bowling and social activities. Call **Janice**, 669-1096.

SCHOOL OF VISUAL ART

Classes in ceramics, stone sculpture, painting and drawing and for children at the Koffler Gallery School of Visual Art begin in October. Call 636-1880.

CHAPLAINCY SERICES

Chaplaincy Services says "What we need, money can't buy! We need you!" To find out how you can help, call Chaplaincy Services co-ordinator **Toby Maskowitz**, 638-7800, ext. 287.

KID BITS

Jewish Family & Child Service York Region (JF&CS) and York Region Public Health are presenting Kids Bits, free workshops for parents of preschoolers. Workshops include A Young Child's Relationship With Siblings and Peers— He hit me first!, Sept. 23; Dealing with a Child's Questions About Sexuality— Where did I come from?, Oct. 14; Nutrition for Preschoolers— I'm not hungry!, Nov. 4; Toilet Training— Uh-oh...accident!, Nov. 18.

Workshops run Thursday mornings 9:15-11 at JF&CS offce, Promenade Mall, Suite 318. Come to as many sessions as you like. For information and pre-registration, call 882-2331.

JEWISH LIFE IN FORMER USSR

The photographic exhibition, Remnants — Jewish Life in the Former Soviet Union, is a documentation of the remnants of Jewish life after 70 years of communism. It depicts the images Toronto photographer **David Blumenfeld** captured in the three months he spent exploring Jewish life in six former Soviet Republics, during the summer of 1991. The exhibition is on view at Holy Blossom Temple until Oct. 29.

PROFESSIONALIZE YOURSELF

Gain the competitive edge! Professionalize Yourself at the Leah Posluns Theatre School. This unique course uses acting techniques to improve presentation and communication skills. Classes are held Mondays, 7-10 p.m. beginning Oct. 25. Call 636-2720.

BEACH HEBREW INSTITUTE

The Beach Hebrew Institute, a progressive Conservative synagogue serving the needs of the Beach and downtown communities, welcomes everyone to Shabbat morning services every Saturday. Location is 109 Kenilworth Ave. (south of Queen, east of Woodbine). For details and other programs, call 694-7942.

LEAH POSLUNS THEATRE SCHOOL

There are still some openings in drama classes for children and acting classes for teens and adults, beginners to advanced levels at the Leah Posluns Theatre School. Act now! Call 636-1880, ext. 287 or 298.

for seniors

Shaarei Shomayim Friendship Club is holding an orientation meeting for the Israeli trip Tuesday, Sept. 21, 2 p.m. Also that day, there's Fitness at 10 a.m. and Stretch and Strengthen at 11 a.m. Line dancing begins on Wednesday, Sept. 22, 10 a.m. Call **Lena**, 785-5773, or **Ruth**, 224-5923, for information on all activities. Remember the Golden Book to mark special occasions. Your donations go to Laniado Hospital in Israel. Call **Dorothy Bloomfield**, 787-1526.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets Wednesdays 7 p.m. at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). The club is closed Sept. 15 for Rosh Hashanah. On Sept. 22, the movie *Festival of Entertainment and Laughter* (in Hebrew) will be screened and on Sunday, Sept. 26, there's a Sukkot party at 7:30 p.m. For information, phone 783-9453 or 635-5604.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club dates to remember— Grand Bazaar, Sunday, Oct. 10; Buffalo trip, Thursday, Oct. 14 ($20); general election meeting Monday, Oct. 18, 1-4 p.m. North York Board of Education programs—bridge, fitness, line dancing, yoga— start the week of Sept. 20. For information on all activities, call club office, 395-7881.

International folkdancing for seniors will be held at the Jewish Community Centre North Y branch Wednesdays 10 a.m.-noon with **Teme Kernerman** starting Oct. 6. Free to members. For information, contact Teme Kernerman, 636-1880, ext. 364, or **Elaine Burke**, ext. 273.

At the **Wagman Centre**— To Sleep or Not to Sleep—That is the Question with speaker **Dr. M. Mamelak** is set for Sunday, Sept. 19, 1:30-2:30 p.m. The Vaudeville Dance Group will perform Tuesday, Sept. 21, 7:30-8:30 p.m.

Sunrise Group will be celebrating New Year's in Akron, Ohio, featuring the Guse Family, Dec. 30-Jan. 1. Come along and join the party with champagne and brunch. Cost is $295 Canadian, everything included. Call **Esther**, 223-9165, or **Sonia**, 889-9436.

The Great Canadian Maturity Show and the Great Canadian Fall '93 Travel Show will run Tuesday, Sept. 28, 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Wednesday, Sept. 29, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Metro Toronto Convention Centre, 2nd floor, 255 Front St. W. offering entertainment, informational seminars, fashion shows for seniors, prizes and more. Admission is free. Complimentary shuttle bus service between Union Station and the Convention Centre.

LZA Seniors Club is taking registration for the 1994 Miami trips Wednesdays 10 a.m. to noon at the Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. You can also phone **Libby**, 782-2059, for information. The Discussion Group meets Tuesdays at 10 a.m. and Ladies Dance Group meets Tuesdays 1 p.m. at the centre.

CENTRE FOR CREATIVE LIVING

The Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living is located at 1003 Steeles Ave. W. Phone number is 225-2112.

Skills for Living with **Harriet Sharkey** will be held on 10 consecutive Tuesdays, Sept. 21-Nov. 23, 1-3 p.m. Come and discuss coping with stress, becoming more assertive, improving relationships. Register in advance with **Sandra** at the Wellness Desk, 225-2112.

A book sale in the foyer offering hard and soft cover books at 5 cents and up takes place Tuesday, Sept. 21, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

La'Briyut Wellness Centre is presenting a program by the Arthritis Society entitled Practical Tips for Everyday Living, Thursday, Sept. 23, 1 p.m. Admission is free and everyone is welcome.

Etrog, an Israeli cultural club for Hebrew speaking adults, is celebrating its fourth anniversary Wednesday, Oct. 13, 7 p.m. with a full dinner and dance with singer **Boris Neiman** and others. Tickets are $16 members, $18 non-members. For information, call **Anna**, 225-2112.

The movie *My Fair Lady* will be screened Sunday, Sept. 19, 2:30 p.m. Members free, non-members $1.

Also on Sept. 19 there's a dance to the music of the Creative Band 7:30-10:30 p.m. Members $3.50, non-members $4.

The Sept. 22 Wednesday afternoon social features music and songs with **Boris Neiman**. The time is 1:30 p.m. Members $3, non-members $4.

at the JCC

BBYO (B'nai Brith Youth Organization) is starting a chapter at the Jewish Community Centre Bloor Y branch. Interested teens can call **Luni**, 924-6211.

Scouts will be meeting on Mondays at the JCC Bloor Y beginning Sept. 27, 4:30-6 p.m. Two age groups—Beavers for 5-7 years and Wolves for 8-10 years. It is open to boys and girls. To register and for more information, phone **Luni**, 924-6211.

Fall senior adult programs are starting soon at the JCC North Y branch. Register at the front desk. For information call 636-1880, ext. 364.

TASK FORCE

As part of its federal election task force, B'nai Brith Canada will be meeting with candidates across the country. Shown reviewing the federal elections map and holding briefing materials for candidates are James Klein (left) and Richard Bogoroch, national chairs (Central region) of the B'nai Brith Election Task Force. Also serving as national chairs are Rabbi Sydney Shoham (Quebec region), Carol Smith (National Capital region), Murray Trachtenberg (Midwestern region) and Prof. Fred Curtis (Western region).

About People

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

United Congegational School of Greater Toronto has announced the appointment of **Ziona Rubinsztejn** as the new director of education. She is an educator with particular talents and interests in teaching Hebrew through the use of creative games and materials.

Ziona Rubinsztejn

Rubinsztejn received her MA degree in Jewish education and her Principals' Certification from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America and is a graduate of York University and the Jewish Teachers Seminary of Toronto. She is currently working on her PhD in Jewish education.

Rubinsztejn has been teaching at United Synagogue Day School since 1976 and has just completed two years as principal at Beth Sholom Mildred Arnoff Memorial Hebrew School. Before that she was at Temple Emanu-El Hebrew School.

BIALIK PTA PRESIDENT

Marilyn Herbert has been elected president of the PTA of Bialik Hebrew Day School for a two-year term. As a mother whose three children all attend the school, she is totally committed to its principles and educational system and has served in various capacities with the board and PTA of Bialik.

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Organizations and People

New JNF emissary in Winnipeg

By MYRON LOVE

WINNIPEG — Ze'ev Kedem, the Jewish National Fund's new emissary for Manitoba and Saskatchewan, is cut from a different cloth than his predecessors, all Israeli army career men. Although he served in the Yom Kippur War, Kedem's background is in education and management.

He arrived in Winnipeg in mid-August. His record in Israel includes a list of accomplishments that have enriched the communities in which he lived. His first post-graduate position was that of founding director of a community centre in Tivon, a small town east of Haifa. After a three-year stint as the World Zionist Organization emissary in Portland, Oregon (1979-1982), he returned to Israel to found and manage a new cultural centre in Carmiel.

Located in the Galilee, Carmiel, Kedem reports, is the most successful development town in Israel. Its population has grown in recent years to over 35,000. Kedem's centre, he says, was the only cultural organization in Israel that ran a profit.

After eight years as the centre's executive director however, Kedem felt it was time for a change. "They were interesting years but also very hard," he says. "It took a lot of effort to be constantly fundraising."

Thus, three years ago, he "transfered" to the Keren Kayemet (JNF). He was stationed in northern Israel where one of his responsiblities was to play host to JNF guests from around the world as the director of information for the area. Among his visitors were several groups from Winnipeg and Toronto. He notes that among his last visitors in Israel were Dr. Ira Schechter and family from Toronto.

When the Winnipeg office was offered him, he was quite happy to accept and he believes he chose well. After just three weeks in Winnipeg, he describes the Jewish community here as one of the warmest he has come across in North America.

"Winnipeg's Jewish community has a long tradition and a very strong Jewish life," he says. "This is among the strongest Jewish communities I have seen in America."

His goal here is to bring fresh information about the JNF as well as refresh feelings toward the organization. With his background in the history of Israel — he is a certified tour guide — he plans to work closely with the Jewish schools.

"As a representative of the JNF abroad, I feel it is my responsibility to explain how the fund spends its money," he says. "The JNF is a Jewish organization more than an Israeli organization. The land is owned by the Jewish People. Our parents and grandparents bought it and Jews around the world have an obligation to help develop it."

Rabbi, synagogue in legal battle

TORONTO — Rabbi Sherman Kirshner, former spiritual leader of Pride of Israel Synagogue, is suing the congregation and its sick benefit society for a total of $750,000, alleging wrongful hiring and dismissal, breach of contract and intentional infliction of mental suffering.

The synagogue and the sick benefit society are denying the allegations. They are countersuing Rabbi Kirshner for $20,000, plus interest and costs, for breach of duty, conflict of interest and diverting fees, allegedly owed to the shul, for the teaching of bar and bat mitzvah lessons.

Rabbi Kirshner has denied those charges.

Rabbi Kirshner's employment at the 700-family member shul in Willowdale ended abruptly earlier this summer. He began his duties only about a year ago after serving in several pulpits in the United States.

Documents detailing the claims and counterclaims have been filed with the Ontario Court of Justice (General Division).

Eppel gets posting at Federation

By MOURA WOLPERT

HAMILTON — Patricia Tolkin Eppel has been appointed as the new executive director of the Hamilton Wentworth and Area Jewish Federation.

She succeeds Claire Mandel, who retired earlier this summer.

Eppel brings to her job extensive experience as an active volunteer on behalf of numerous causes and organizations, from founding member of the Irish Soviet Jewry committee and of Jewish Volunteer Services in her native Dublin, to founding president of Na'amat Hamilton chapter and service in various capacities with the United Jewish Welfare Fund (UJWF), JNF, JCC and other groups.

For the past seven years she has edited the *Hamilton Jewish News* and since 1988, she has run her own desk top publishing company.

Eppel has an impressive academic record. Following a one year course in office management, she entered a four year program in philosophy, psychology and biblical studies at Trinity College, University of Dublin, graduating in 1974 with a First Class degree with special merit as well as winning the Second University Prize for attaining the second highest marks in all Bachelor of Arts disciplines in final exams.

At McMaster University she obtained her MSc and PhD degrees in a medical sciences program and she also spent a year in Israel and has a working knowledge of Hebrew.

Although her professional career began at McMaster as a research and teaching assistant, Eppel remarked in a recent interview that she has always been "strongly drawn to using my skills and knowledge in a Jewish setting."

It was for that reason, she said, that she "jumped at the opportunity" to become involved with the *Hamilton Jewish News*.

She applied for the job of executive director because she was convinced, said Eppel, "that it succeeds best with someone from the community."

Her first priority as executive director is the upcoming UJWF campaign and she's fortunate, said Eppel, to be working with volunteers of the caliber of campaign chair, CeCe Schreiber, and Federation president Abe Szpirglas, from whom she is receiving "excellent support."

Long term goals are to "establish the centrality of Federation for the health and well being of the community," to try and attract new and young volunteers and the establishment of an endowment foundation to ensure the continuation of support for local agencies and Israel.

When she and her husband, psychiatrist Dr. Alan Eppel, medical director of the Guelph mental health clinic, left Ireland, they left behind a community which, though "very vibrant," had "no future for our children."

SINGLES EVENTS

Singles events is an advertising feature of The Canadian Jewish News. Deadline is Monday, 5:00 p.m., 10 days preceding issue date. For rates or to place an ad, please call Alan at 422-2528.

The CJN encourages readers to direct any queries they might have on an upcoming event to the event's organizers.

****It's Swingtime Saturday September 18****
****New Image 50 Plus Singles****
is having a dance at Earl Bales Community Centre, 8:00pm. Deejay **Don Del Greco**. Refreshments, prizes. Members $5.00, guests $6.00. Florida trip to the Marco Polo all February. Call H. Pearson, 633-0397.
P.S. We are now open for 1994 membership!

A.Y.J.A. is now accepting nominations for the following positions on our executive committee; President, Chairman, Social Events, Advertising and Outreach. Deadline Friday, October 1, 1993. Please mail nominations to A.Y.J.A., 7305 Woodbine Ave., Suite 750, Markham, Ont., L3R 3V7. For info call 760-4149.

A.Y.J.A. (Association of Young Jewish Adults) presents a "Summer in September Party" (ages 22-35) on **Sunday, September 26,** 8:00pm, at **P.W.D.'s** (88 Yorkville Ave.) Cover $10. Proceeds will be donated to Bernard Betel Centre For Creative Living. For info 760-4149.

Take A Splash with A.Y.J.A. at the sunny Jack Tar Village in Puerto Plata on Dec. 4th for 1 or 2 weeks from $799, taxes extra. Payment due October 4th. Call Kim at 886-0673.

THE W.O.W. GROUP
Widows and Widowers
We are a group of Jewish professionals, 45-60, (men and women widowed 1 1/2 years plus). Join us for our opening brunch meeting on Sunday, September 26. For more info and reservations call Bev, 737-8393.

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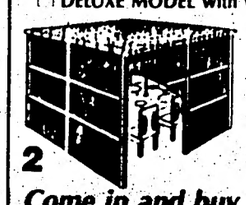
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Organizations and People

UJA volunteers' role stressed at meeting

TORONTO — Tzosmererer. Ostrovtzer. Wierzbniker. Stopnitzer.

No. These are not Russian hockey players, nor are they instructions for assembling equipment made in Eastern Europe. These are shtetls and towns in Poland, and names of their respective Societies or Landsmanshaften.

The Societies and Landsmanshaften of United Jewish Appeal (UJA) gathered at the Lipa Green Building recently for their annual opening meeting. The Societies, often referred to as Friendly Societies, or Sick Benefit Societies — have met every year for almost a half a century — to launch their campaign and ultimately raise money for UJA. At their onset, the Societies were established by newcomers from Eastern Europe and Russia, for the purpose of helping the next Jew from their town to escape Europe and in their absorption to their new surroundings.

This year the Societies opening meeting was co-ordinated by Morris Flicht and Michael Rosenberg together with UJA staff, Fahima Meranda and Avrum Rosensweig. The guest speaker for the evening was Robert Rubinstein, President of H&R Property Management.

All of the speakers stressed the importance of the centrality of the United Jewish Appeal campaign and the work its volunteers and funds have done for decades to assist any Jew in distress.

Rubinstein spoke about his life as a second generation Holocaust survivor and his parents survival not only of the war but the times following. Rubinstein said that his parents were very special people, "like many Holocaust survivors," because they used all their resources to repair their lives even after the death of many of their family members and untold hardships.

"I remember my mother told me a story about how she returned to her town in Szerencs, Hungary, where she was born, and saw her mother walking up the street. She ran to her, and a strange woman turned around. She was wearing her mother's dress. My mother ran away from that city never to return," Rubinstein said.

Rubenstein expressed his amazement at how his parents eventually met up with one another, made their way to Toronto by claiming an understanding of the fur trade, and ulitmately setting up their own fur business. "Really, my father had no choice but to go on his own because one thing he wouldn't do was compromise on Shabbat. He was forced to change jobs every Monday morning."

Rubinstein added that his parent's first contact with the Toronto Jewish community was when upon their arrival there was an apartment available for them and the first month's rent was paid for by the Canadian Jewish Congress. "That was the first and last time my parents accepted assistance from the community as grateful as they were for it — it gave them the initial impetus to restructure their lives but they wanted to give rather than to receive."

Rosenberg reiterated Rubinstein's sentiments, through his own experiences.

"Most of us in this room are Holocaust survivors," Rosenberg said, a survivor himself. "We know what its like better than anyone else to come to a new city and to receive assistance from the UJA.

"We must make an extraordinary effort this year, because we understand the needs," said Rosenberg. "And if anyone tells you times are tough, respond to them by saying, 'you wouldn't tell a sick relative who needed mending you couldn't afford it . . . you would just help."

Flicht concluded the evening with a special message to the 50 Landsmanshaften and Society members in attendance.

"My father and mother, may they rest in peace, came to Canada from Wierzbnik and Beizetchin. They received help from the community and now its my turn to give back.

"I thank you for the honor of giving me that opportunity and I look forward to our commitment to any Jew who needs us."

Jewish leaders to discuss issues

NEW YORK — In a history-making demonstration of solidarity, the presidents of 20 major Orthodox Jewish organizations from the United States and Canada will convene their leadership for three days in November to "analyze and project approaches of the Torah community to deal with the issues and challenges arising from erosion of the classical Jewish family and Jewish values."

The Inaugural North American Orthodox Leadership Conference will be held Nov. 25 to Nov. 28 at the Homowack Lodge, Spring Glen, NY.

Further information is available from the conference office, Frank Buchweitz, co-ordinator, 333 7th Ave., NY, NY 10001, (212) 563-4000, ext. 149. Registration will be conducted through the participating organizations.

Labor activist dies at 83

TORONTO– Laebele Hoffmitz, 83, a former Toronto resident and active worker in Labor Zionist causes, died in Tel Aviv recently.

Born in Opatow, Poland, Hoffmitz came to Toronto at age 15. He was in the garment business in Toronto and later, in New York. He worked for the Labor Zionist Organization in Detroit for three years before going to Israel, where he was employed by a bathing suit manufacturer and then by Histadrut.

Surviving are his wife, Shoshanna, a brother, Jack, and a sister, Bena, in Israel, and three sisters in Toronto; Fanny Manly, Doris Krivy and Lottie Goldenberg.

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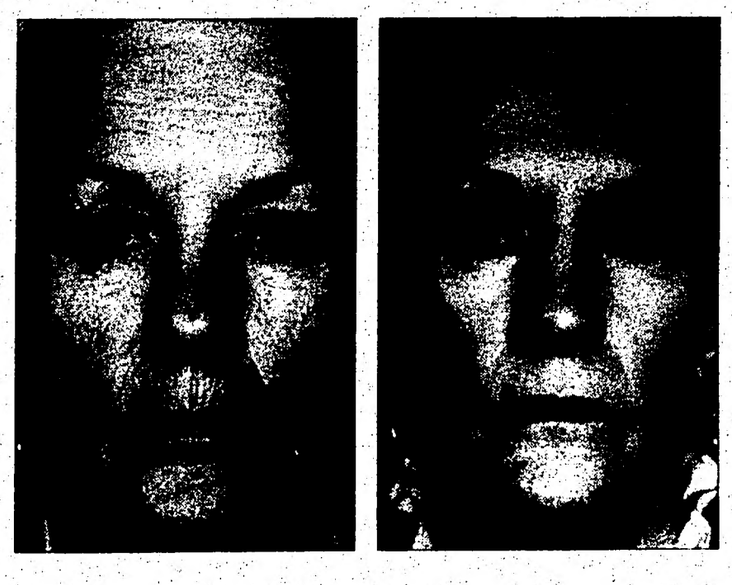

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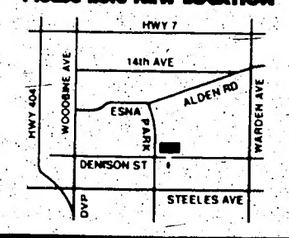

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Organizations and People

Menachem Begin Foundation 'living memorial' to former PM

By FRANCES KRAFT

TORONTO — Zvi Harry Hurwitz, executive vice-president of the Menachem Begin Heritage Foundation, was in Toronto recently as part of a two-month, 18-city North American tour to seek overseas support for the new project.

The foundation was conceived as "a living memorial" to the former Israeli prime minister shortly after his death almost two years ago, Hurwitz told *The CJN* in a recent interview. Hurwitz, who was an adviser on world Jewry to Israeli prime ministers Begin and Yitzhak Shamir, is directing the project. Former Torontonian Nat Silver is honorary president of an international board consisting of 70 members so far.

Plans include an educational and research institution in Jerusalem which would house archival material about Begin. "We hope to attract thousands of schoolchildren, soldiers, tourists, and citizens," said Hurwitz.

Research at the institute would deal with peace and international understanding as well as socioeconomic issues addressed by Project Renewal, the successful urban renewal project begun under Begin's tenure as prime minister. "Begin created the momentum of the peace process with the [Camp David] accord with Egypt," he noted.

Menachem Begin

"I would like to stress that this is not a [Likud] party project," said Hurwitz. "It is non-political." Three former Israeli presidents recently joined the board, he noted: Ephraim Katzir, Yitzhak Navon and Chaim Herzog, all of whom were affiliated with the Labor party.

Hurwitz is seeking archival material about Begin for the institute. "There must be an enormous treasure of archival material — pictures, letters, videos, [audio] cassettes — that belongs in an archive."

The foundation's target date for a groundbreaking ceremony is Begin's second yahrzeit, in late February or early March of 1994. They have identified three or four appropriate sites, Hurwitz said, and are hoping to have the building completed by May 1998, the 50th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel, "toward which [Begin] made a significant contribution."

They are hoping to start research work "immediately," said Hurwitz.

For further information about the Menachem Begin Heritage Foundation or to offer assistance, contact Harry Wolle at 764-7272.

New rabbi stresses continuity

[Cont'd. from page 24]

"That's one of the challenges of this large urban congregation, which has these groups as a sub-population within it. How do we retain a traditional congregation with a commitment to traditional values, while at the same time recognizing the diversity of our members and finding ways to include them?"

Another initiative he hopes to implement is a chesed (loving kindness) society.

"One of the hallmarks of Jewish life has been that we care for each other. This society would look out for people who are hospialized, bereaved or socially isolated."

Performing these mitzvot confers a double benefit, according to the rabbi.

"A lot of people who come to synagogue are passive participants. Acts of chesed restore to them the sense that they help define Jewish life, that it's not just something the rabbi or cantor present."

He aspires to give parents a similar sense of empowerment, through family education activities.

"Jewish parents are looking for ways to be teachers to their children. As baby boomers come back to Judaism to raise their children, they may feel they don't have the tools, the knowledge. One of our goals is to empower these parents," Rabbi Frydman-Kohl said.

He perceives "a tremendous interest in the spiritual life, a yearning to be connected to God, to a sense of the transcendant.

"People feel there must be more to life than making a living. Since the Holocaust, the Jewish community has been so focussed on issues of survival that we may have neglected the inner dimension of Jewish life. I hope to try and focus the congregation on a more spiritual life."

He concedes that synagogue attendance is weak across North America. Still, he'd like to make going to shul "the primary experience of the week."

He'll know he's achieved this, he smiled, "when going to shul is so important people are willing to pass up skiing."

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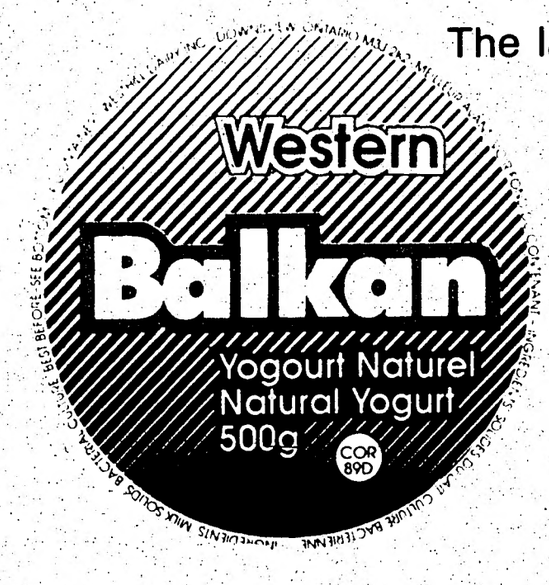

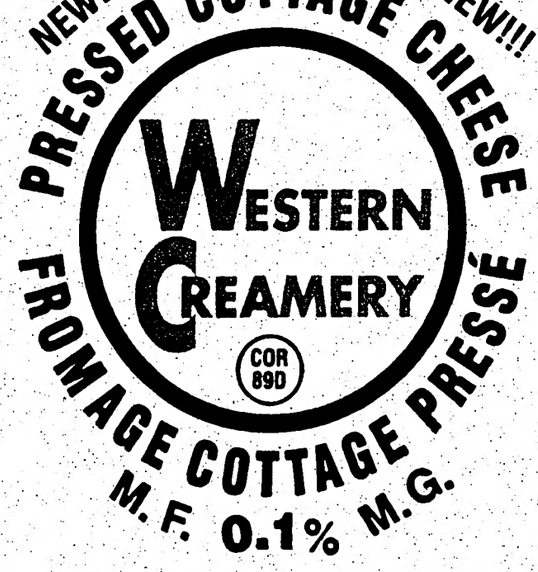

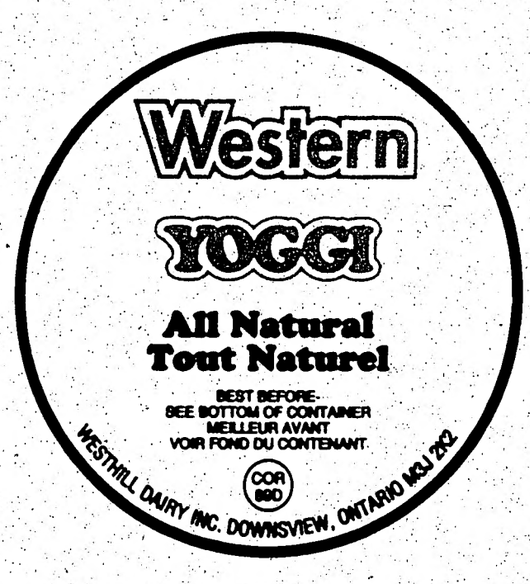

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Organizations and People

Mazon Canada campaign to coincide with holidays

By PAUL LUNGEN

Marilyn Aarons-Guttman

TORONTO — Mazon Canada continues to expand its fundraising efforts as it mounts a nation-wide campaign to coincide with the High Holidays.

Thirty-five congregations from Halifax to Victoria, representing all streams of Judaism, are participating in this year's campaign to help raise money for the hungry of Canada, said Mazon executive-director Marilyn Aarons-Guttman.

Mazon has distributed more than 20,000 pledge cards to the congregations, marking a substantial growth in the organization's grass roots support, Aarons-Guttman said. In previous years, the cards were distributed only in Ontario and only 10,000 were printed.

Aarons-Guttman said the cards will be distributed in synagogue newsletters, sent to shul members with their High Holiday tickets or placed on sanctuary seats.

The cards ask that members "help make this season of renewal one of sharing with those who have no bread."

Mazon Canada, which bills itself as a Jewish response to hunger, collects money through a variety of fundraising means and distributes it to organizations across Canada that feed the hungry.

In its spring round of allocations, Mazon made grants to 41 organizations totalling $53,250 — an 11 percent increase over the fall total.

Among the recipients were the Albert County Action Committee in Riverview, N.B., the Juan de Fuca Community Resources Centre in Victoria, B.C., the National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Toronto section, and the Jewish Russian Community Centre in Montreal.

For more information or to make a donation, contact Mazon Canada in Toronto at 788 Marlee Ave., Suite 206, Toronto, M6B 3K1, (416) 783-7554, or in Montreal at 2255 Lambert Closse, Suite A, Montreal, H3H 1Z9, (514) 931-6000.

Koschitzky Torah Centre dedicated

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN

TORONTO — Dark clouds and pouring rain could not dampen the spirits of the hundreds of people attending the recent dedication of the Israel and Golda Koschitzky Torah Centre at Yeshivat B'nei Akiva Or Chaim, a religious Zionist boys school.

Students, staff, family and friends also welcomed a new Torah scroll donated by the Koschitzkys, a major strength behind the school.

"The education and atmosphere the students receive at the yeshivah has been immeasurably enhanced by the expansion of the building and the improvement of the facilities," said dedication chair Yossi Wohlgelernter. "The new Beit Midrash resounds to the sound of Torah and Tefillah enacting from our students."

The yeshivah, which opened in 1973, and sister school Ulpanat Orot Girls School were recently awarded the prestigious Jerusalem Prize for Torah Education in the Diaspora by the World Zionist Organization, the first Canadian institutions in the prize's 14-year history to be chosen.

Jeffrey Shumacher, a school alumnus, thanked the Koschitzky family for its support over the years. "With the tremendous contribution of the Koschitzky children and grandchildren to the school, it is clear that their sense of responsibility to the community is one that they share with their whole family."

Rosh HaYeshiva Rabbi Avishai David also thanked the family for its continuing commitment to the Yeshiva. "The atmosphere here represents the fruits of the seeds of our benefactors."

Speaking at a dinner following the dedication, Rabbi Mark Dratch of Shaarei Shomayim Congregation told listeners that Orthodox institutions like Or Chaim should prepare their students for contact with the outside world.

"We can't put our children in boxes," he said. "Eventually the boxes open and they need to know how to deal with the world."

Tanenbaum scholarship launched

TORONTO — Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto (BAYT) Congregation, recently announced the establishment of the Joseph and Faye Tanenbaum Memorial Scholarship Fund to honor the memory of the synagogue's late founders and benefactors, Joseph and Faye Tanenbaum.

Synagogue vice-president Arieh Glustein, who spearheaded the organization of the scholarship fund program and serves as chair of the scholarship fund committee, said that the scholarships are being awarded annually to children of members of the Beth Avraham Yoseph Congregation who have participated in BAYT Youth Programs as volunteer youth leaders and are continuing their Jewish studies in a yeshiva or university in Israel for a minimum of one year upon completion of high school.

The funds for the scholarship program were donated through the generosity of synagogue members and the BAYT Sisterhood.

Some of the recipients of scholarship awards from the Joseph and Faye Tanenbaum Memorial Scholarship Fund are (from left) Aaron Greenberg, Mordechai Nussbaum, Arieh Glustein, scholarship fund committee chair; Miriam Romberg, Amram Bendahan, BAYT youth director; and Kenny Silverman.

Recipients of scholarships in its inaugural year (1993-94) are: Hadassah Eisenberger, Aaron Greenberg, Rifky Idels, Malka Javasky, Mordechai Nussbaum, Miriam Romberg, Kenny Silverman, Audey Stanleigh, Gitty Taub and Joelle Tollinsky.

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Classes commence Monday, October 5, 1992 at **The Joseph & Faye Tanenbaum Education Centre,** Eitz Chaim Schools, 475 Patricia Ave., Willowdale, Masora College (men); and at **The Koroinek and Tanenbaum Centre,** Eitz Chaim Schools, 1 Viewmount Ave., Toronto and Clark & York Hill Blvd., Thornhill, Temima College (women) and other locations.

For information and registration write the Registrar, Maimonides College, P.O. Box 6510, Station "A", Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5W 1X4; or phone Toronto (416) 961-1527.

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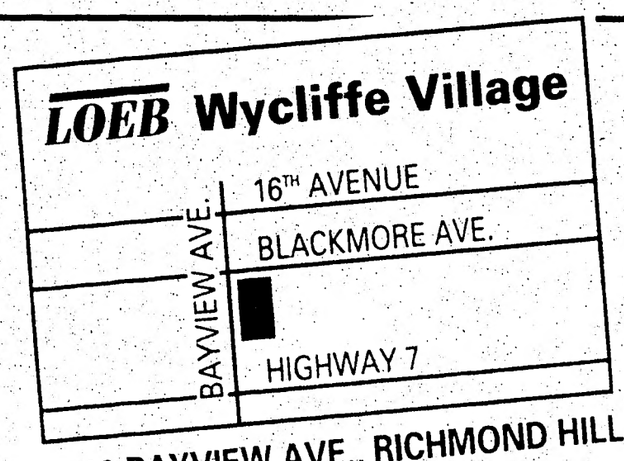

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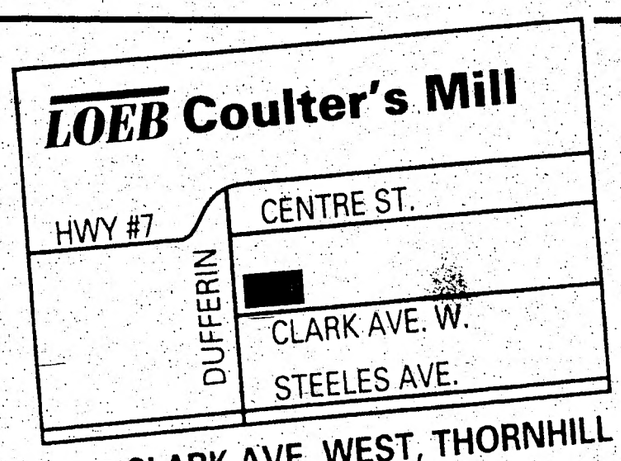

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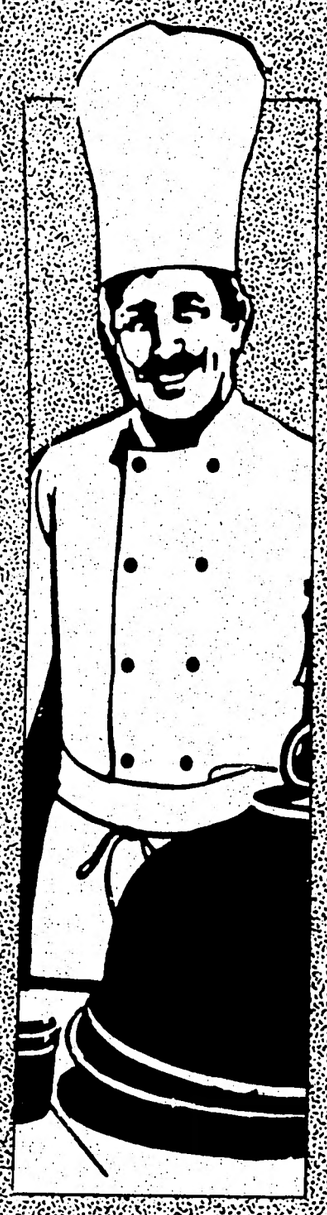

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Arts

Books

By BERNARD BASKIN

The Certificate by Isaac B. Singer (Harper Collins $22.00 U.S.)

Why was Isaac Bashevis Singer so popular? Why was he awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature? Why were sophisticated readers so fascinated by the demons and dybbuks of Frempol, Lublin and Bilgory? Why did Jews and non-Jews react so positively to stories about Eastern European Jewry of a generation ago?

The answers are hard to find. Perhaps Jews turned to Singer's traditional themes and material in quest of elusive identity — to balance their ancient heritage with the alarming changes of modernity. Did Jews read Singer in the vain hope of retrieving their past — recapturing in literature the people, culture and ideals of a vanished world?

Perhaps a simpler explanation for Singer's popularity is that he was a storyteller of formidable talent who was made to weave imaginative tales for the delight and elucidation of his readers.

It is sometimes overlooked that despite his occult emphasis and his erotically driven stories, Singer never loses sight of the spiritual dimension in human affairs. He made clear, "In everything I write I try to put in my idea that this world and this life are not everything, that there is a soul and there is a God and there may be life after death."

In the long run it may turn out that his most lasting contribution will be his impressive three epic novels: *The Manor*, *The Estate*, and *The Family Moskat*, a trilogy that covers the Polish-Jewish communities from the insurrections of 1863 until the Nazi conquest in 1939.

The Certificate was first serialized in Yiddish as far back as 1967. It is now translated into English for the first time and is the occasion for a small celebration.

Unlike most of Singer's books this novel is light and youthful in spirit — although laced with overtones of sadness. The book's hero, David Bendiger, aged 19, is a penniless and starving youth who has written an unpublished work entitled, "Spinoza and the Cabala." His older brother is already a recognized and successful writer. David arrives in Warsaw with few prospects. But he is informed that he is qualified for a certificate that will get him to Palestine. All he has to do is to enter into a fictitous marriage with a woman who is eager to emigrate to the Holy Land. (The British allowed married Poles to bring their wives into Palestine where often the brides were quickly divorced as they had planned.)

David is caught up in a vortex of conflicting emotions as several young women seek his favors, as political and literary problems befuddle him and as his father, an Orthodox rabbi, arrives unexpectedly from Warsaw.

Singer is at his best in a number of set pieces: the fictive wedding, David trying to impress older writers with his manuscript, and his touching reconciliation with his troubled father.

Much of this book is autobiographical, but replete with imaginative and original material. For as Singer reminded us, "The real writer's gold mine, is the outside world, its constant changes, its bizarre complications, the various human characters, man's passions, follies, errors, hopes, disappointments, especially in love."

Popular N.Y. vacation spot subject of successful play

By BEN ROSE

TORONTO —Milton Berle used to say that the Catskills are where you can go snowblind from sour cream.

That popular vacation land is the subject of *Catskills on Broadway*, a highly successful show that ran 14 months on the Great White Way and is coming to Massey Hall for eight performances in November.

Producers Bob Benia and Michael Lyons, the men behind the recent Unique Lives and Experiences series at Roy Thomson Hall, have booked the Nov. 13-16 run to include two matinees.

Benia, 36, has never been to the Catskills, but his parents, who live in Philadelphia have, and they have warm memories about it. But Benia did see the show at Harrah's Casino in Atlantic City and he was determined to bring it here.

Catskills on Broadway features the talents of four versatile performers — Freddie Roman, Mal Z. Lawrence, Louise DuArt and Dick Capri — along with a 12-piece orchestra.

"So much food was eaten at the Catskills resorts that people checked in as guests and checked out as cargo," said Lawrence. "The highway from New York to the Catskills became known as the derma road."

But non-Jews in the audiences laugh just as hard as Jews, Benia said. In fact, Benia said that except for shows in Florida, *Catskills on Broadway* has attracted a majority of non-Jewish clientele. "It's non-stop comedy," he said.

Freddie Roman, Mal Z. Lawrence, Louise DuArt and Dick Capri in Catskills on Broadway.

Though the number of resorts has dwindled, the Catskills in the heydays of the '50s and '60s nurtured comedians like Dany Kaye and Mel Brooks. Frequently they started out as "tummlers," performers hired to keep guests happy on rainy days.

Benia is also impressed with the sociological importance of the Catskills, a place where Jews from New York's Lower East Side experienced their first annual vacations, a North American tradition. It was less expensive to holiday by the mountains than by the sea. The effects of Jewish communal holidaying habits on North American humor should not be overlooked, he said.

Each of the four performers contributes a 30-minute monologue, ingeniously linked in a run-on flow. Roman, an Italian, says he was taken on so the show would avoid union problems. DuArt does socko impressions of movie and TV stars, while Capri, another Italian, says he asked for mussels mariniara in a New York restaurant and they brought him the manager.

Tickets are available now at Ticketmaster (416) 872-1111 and Roy Thomson Hall (416) 872-4255. Prices are $24, $48 and $54.

Eye on Arts

Esther Ghan-Firestone has been named conductor of the Toronto Jewish Folk Choir on the eve of the group's 68th season. The Winnipeg-born soprano, cantor and choral director was featured in a program of Yiddish folk songs at the 1993 Mariposa Folk Festival and recently released a cassette *Echoes of the Past, A Celebration of Yiddish Song*.

* * *

The Leah Posluns Theatre is offering the public an opportunity to see preliminary rehearsal activities during The Rehearsal Zone: Brighton Beach Memoirs.

This event will take place Sept. 26 between 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Director Reva Stern along with the cast of the play will answer questions about the rehearsal process. Following will be a backstage tour of the theatre.

Space for this event is limited. Reservations can be made by calling 636-2720.

Brighton Beach Memoirs opens Oct. 14 and runs until Nov. 7.

* * *

The Alan Jordan Actors Workshop will commence classes this month. The workshop classes will provide specialized experience for young actors and pre-professionals, who will be given expert training in movement, speech and acting. Advanced students will be presented to the industry in a public showcase.

Jordan has been a professional actor and educator in New York and Los Angeles for over 20 years.

For more information call 369-1856.

* * *

Chaim Avron, artistic director of Spotlight Productions, is bringing comedian Yankele Bodo and stage and movie star Monica from Israel for *Freylich mit Bodo*. It runs at Northview Heights Auditorium, corner Bathurst and Finch, Oct. 16 and 17, with a matinee Oct. 17.

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Kirshner plays leading role in Denys Arcand feature film

By CYNTHIA GASNER

Mia Kirshner

TORONTO — Toronto-born Mia Kirshner is playing a leading role in renowned Montreal director Denys Arcand's film *Love and Human Remains*. The feature film, Arcand's first English language film had its Canadian premiere last week in Toronto at the Festival of Festivals which runs to Sept. 18.

The film is adapted from Brad Fraser's award-winning, provocative and extremely successful stageplay which was voted one of the top 10 plays in 1991 by *Time* magazine. It is a Max Films presentation co-produced with Atlantis Films Limited.

Kirshner, who has had three lead roles in feature films in less than 12 months, two simultaneously, told *The CJN* that "It is a gift and experience of a lifetime to have had the opportunity to work with such a great man as Denys."

A drama of the nineties, the film is a dark comedy and a disturbing explanation of the desperate search for relationships in an age of uncertainty. "The film explores areas that have not been explored without stereotyping such as AIDS, violence, homosexuality and lesbianism, and most importantly love in the context of all of these." In her lead role, Kirshner, a picture of innocence, plays a dominatrix — a person who sexually overpowers someone and dominates them.

Kirshner's green-blue eyes exude the confidence of a seasoned performer. She appears shy and soft spoken but is quick to explain that she can stand up to anyone if she doesn't think something is right. Clear thinking and articulate, Kirshner knows where she's coming from and where she wants to go.

"I can't remember a time I didn't want to act," she recalls. As a young child, she would do imitations of Walter Cronkite and by the age of seven, she was organizing plays at the Alternative Primary School. With an impish smile she adds, "and I always took the lead."

Kirshner studied at Toronto's Young People's Theatre, the Leah Posluns Theatre School and she participated in the Spring Chekhov Festival at the Tarragon Theatre.

A honor roll graduate of Jarvis Collegiate, she was active in the school's theatrical productions and recently she directed a play.

When she was 13, Kirshner began acting professionally, sometimes working a 12 or 14 hour day. She soon learned how to juggle her academic work with her busy acting schedule. "Although I am required to do some long shoots, my education is a priority."

In her five-year professional acting career, Kirshner has had more than 30 television shows to her credit. Her roles include such contrasting characters as a rebellious teenager searching for herself and motherly love in *Cadillac Girls*, directed by Nichol Kendal, and a stripper-table dancer in *Exotica*, directed by Atom Egoyan. *Cadillac Girls* will be released this fall and *Exotica* will be released next year.

"I believe that in both *Love and Human Remains* and *Exotica* they cast the roles against type to make the characters unpredictable and fascinating therefore adding many layers to the character." To prepare for a part, Kirshner notes that she thoroughly researches each role like a project. For her lead in *Love and Human Remains*, she spoke to people in the profession, read newspaper and magazine articles, visited stores where dominatrix would shop "and along with Denys, we create a living and breathing character."

Describing two parts of an actor's life, the public self and the private self, Kirshner says, "These are two separate worlds — and I don't confuse people in private life and those in my public life."

Kirshner is taking a year off school to act, travel and write. She plans to enter university next year and will study English, film theory and political science. "We live in a world where you need a university education and I wouldn't jeopardize my future by neglecting my education. I love writing — I write short stories which are private. One day, when I feel that I am ready, I will attempt to do something with my stories."

For recreation, Kirshner loves to dance. As well, she finds time to work as a volunteer at two day-care centres.

Her goals for the future are "to be happy, to do quality projects, to continue my education and to reach for the top." If motivation, talent and beauty are required to reach the top, Kirshner is well on her way up the ladder of success.

Singer creates unique exhibit as tribute to Wallenberg

By RON CSILLAG

Yvonne Singer

TORONTO — One would think an art exhibit about Raoul Wallenberg would contain photographs, related artifacts and memorabilia about the Swedish hero who rescued an estimated 100,000 Hungarian Jews from certain death during World War II.

For North York artist Yvonne Singer, that would have been too obvious.

Singer, who teaches fine arts at York University, has crafted a wholly unique perspective about Wallenberg in a display entitled In Memoriam: Forgetting and Remembering Fragments of History, which opened last week at the Koffler Gallery.

The installation is in two very spartan rooms. There are no photos, no yellow Stars of David, no replicas of the special Swedish passports Wallenberg used to save thousands of Budapest Jews in the last six months of 1944 before he was taken into Soviet custody, never to be seen again, at least not officially.

Instead, Singer lets us use our imaginations and tap into our own fears. The Felt Room, an eight-foot square, steel-walled, felt-lined with guide wires overhead, is darkened save for a pixel board, the kind seen on the subway. The message that crawls along in bright red dots combines old news headlines and stories about Wallenberg's exploits along with strange phrases like, "Sorry, I can't hear you" and "Sorry, I can't see you."

The adjacent Glass Room houses one large glass shelf and 15 smaller shelves, all strategically lit. Etched into the large piece are observations about solitary confinement. Each of the 15 small shelves has single words like "I," "don't" "won't" and "understand" incised into the glass. Light from above throws the words in shadow, and the viewer is left to construct the message on his own.

The whole effect is jarring but in a quiet, meditative way. The box is confining, claustrophobic; the glass messages etherial and fleeting. One can almost hear Wallenberg calling out in agony from the gulag that was his home from 1945 to an indeterminate time, for there is still no conclusive proof surrounding his ultimate fate.

Look at these simple, stark objects long enough and you may begin to feel as though you're having a waking dream.

Singer, 49, has more than a passing interest in Wallenberg. She is the Swede's god-daughter. Her mother, pregnant with her in Nazi-ravaged 1944 Budapest, could not get into a hospital to give birth because she was a Jew. So she went to one of the safehouses run by Wallenberg, where Yvonne was born, right on the hero's bed.

But she doesn't dwell on that. For the artist, the show is a distillation of some very complicated twists and turns in the Wallenberg dossier over the past 48 years.

"I think his story is a metaphor for many things, for the way we view our heroes, the way we receive and interpret information, how we deal with issues of cultural identity," Singer told *The CJN*. "I've tried to leave a lot of clues."

Predictable and straightforward this exhibit is not. The artist advises bringing an open mind and ultimately, "I hope I've created a situation in which people can stop and think."

Singer has accepted an invitation to set up the show in St. Petersburg in Russia next spring. The irony here is supreme, for the former Soviet Union and even today's Russia have continued to stick to the old story that Wallenberg died of a heart attack in prison in 1947, despite evidence unearthed by an international commission of inquiry to the contrary and later sightings by fellow inmates.

The exhibit continues through Oct. 13.

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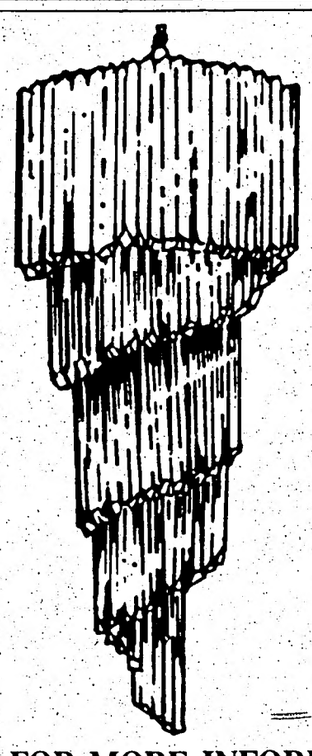
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Visiting Jordan may be easier if peace accord goes through

TRAVEL TALK

By BILL GLADSTONE

If the mirage of a Palestinian-Israeli peace ever materializes, normalized relations between Israel and its neighbor, Jordan, might quickly ensue.

If so, visitors to the region might routinely leave Jerusalem, descend the mystically breathtaking Judean Hills to the touted Palestinian capital of Jericho, and roll across the Allenby Bridge into the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Someday, it might become an easy thing to do.

But that day hasn't arrived. Several years ago, at a time of much intifada violence, I was obliged to cross the Allenby Bridge at the end of a three-week journalistic tour of the Middle East. Alas, my first attempt at a crossing ended in dismal failure and my second attempt two days later came perilously close to a bad ending as well.

In Jordan, I had attained what I thought was the correct visa for re-entering the country via the Allenby Bridge. After touring Jordan and Egypt, I had spent the last week of my trip in Israel. My return flight was to leave Amman, Jordan on Sunday at 11 a.m. Since the logistics of transferring from Jerusalem to Amman demanded advance planning, I began seeking opinions early.

Israel's government bureaucracy offered many conflicting opinions as to the operating hours of the Allenby Bridge. Unfortunately and incredibly, nobody knew for sure.

The consensus was that the bridge was open daily from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., with notable exceptions. On Saturday, the Jewish Sabbath, no passage would be allowed on the Israeli side. And on Friday, the Muslim Sabbath, the Jordanians would close their half of the bridge at 1 p.m.

Based on this somewhat less-than-reliable intelligence, I decided that a Sunday crossing, however desirable, was out of the question and that, similarly, a Thursday crossing would be premature. I would cross Friday morning and stay in Amman until my flight.

Friday morning in Jerusalem, packed and ready, I wondered why the taxi I had ordered for 9 a.m. did not come. A company spokesperson told me by phone that they were having trouble finding a driver licensed to cross the bridge all the way to the Israeli customs checkpoint. At 10 a.m. they sent a nonlicensed driver, advising that I could easily find a bus to take me across the bridge.

My driver stopped briefly during the spectacular hour-long ride to deliver a package in Jericho. When we reached the bridge, I removed my luggage from the back seat and paid him the exorbitant sum of $50 U.S. as agreed. Then he turned around and sped back toward Jerusalem, raising a cloud of dust along the desert road.

Two Israeli soldiers manned the lonely outpost. They watched me approach in silence. They said that there was no bus to carry stranded tourists over the bridge. They also said that the bridge had closed at 11 a.m., 20 minutes earlier.

Feeling crestfallen and desperate, I attempted to persuade them to let me pass on foot; but they wisely dissuaded me. The Jordanians would only send me back, they said: the bridge was closed.

"Can't you radio them that I'm coming?" I wisecracked. They regarded me as though the sun had already gotten to me. The bridge, they reiterated, was closed.

But there were still a few trucks and buses coming from the Jordanian side: what about those? I asked. These were the last few strangers through the Jordanian and Israeli checkpoints, explained the soldiers.

I sat down with them in the heat, flies buzzing around our heads. How would I get back to Jerusalem? Not to worry, they said: I could catch a ride on a Palestinian bus that was due to come through.

The return to Jerusalem, in a bus crowded with Palestinians, cost only six shekels. Before reaching a station, the driver made a special stop to drop me off with my luggage on a strange and menacing street-corner in East Jerusalem.

Sunday morning, a driver who was licensed to cross to the edge of the Israeli frontier picked me up just after 8 a.m. We reached the line-up of vehicles about an hour later, and finally made the Israeli customs-point, where my driver left.

After a cursory inspection and the payment of an exit tax, I joined a group of four other travellers onto an official Jordanian mini-van. This vehicle ferried us across the Jordan River — as deep and wide as a country creek. We paid for the ride in Jordanian dinars, and had to surrender our passports and visas to the driver as well.

In the Jordanian customs-house, all the other travellers were processed and permitted to pass before the official called my name. When I approached, he told me my visa was not valid and asked where it has been attained.

Visa privileges

Apparently, the visa was good for exiting and entering Jordan via the Allenby Bridge, as I had been told. One could exit and enter using this visa as many times as desired. However, one had to exit properly before attempting to return. Since I had flown from Amman to Cairo and had not left Jordan via the bridge, I had invalidated my visa privileges.

Distressed and caught off guard, I was nonetheless unwilling to give up my battle with the Allenby Bridge without a fight. I slapped my airline ticket down on the desk and showed the customs-official that my flight was due to leave in barely more than an hour and a quarter.

"But you are 100 kilometres from Amman!" he exclaimed. "You'll never make it!"

"I might if you let me go," I said.

"There are other flights," he said.

"Yes, but I want to go on this one."

Inspiration struck and I slapped down a business card that had been in my wallet. It belonged to a Jordanian cabinet minister whom I had interviewed in Amman three weeks earlier.

"Call this man," I said. "He is my friend. I am an important person. Ask him. He will tell you to let me go to the airport immediately."

The official seemed impressed. Fortunately, the cabinet minister's line was busy; I wondered if he would even remember me. But my display of bravado had its effect. "All right, I let you go," the guard conceded. "But only because you are important person."

For the agreed-upon fee of $30 U.S., my cab driver negotiated some of the worst roads in the Kingdom at breakneck speed, at times veering around bulldozers and mounds of dirt where the road was under construction. The mountainous terrain was treacherous, with fog patches, herds of sheep, camel-riding nomads and other obstructions seemingly around every hairpin curve.

We reached the airport two minutes shy of 11. Abandoning my bags and the cab, I raced through airport security, and breathlessly announced myself to the airline attendant.

Instantly she picked up a phone. "You're just in time. They've just boarded. Go through Gate 37. But hurry!"

Since I had almost no money in my pocket, I had to cash my last traveler's cheque to pay the driver. He was standing dumfounded at the curb. Grabbing my luggage and thanking him profusely, I rushed aboard the aircraft as the doors were closing, and showed the stewardess my first-class ticket.

"Would you care for a glass of wine?" she asked, showing me my seat.

"I'd love one," I said, reclining breathlessly as we taxied toward the runway.

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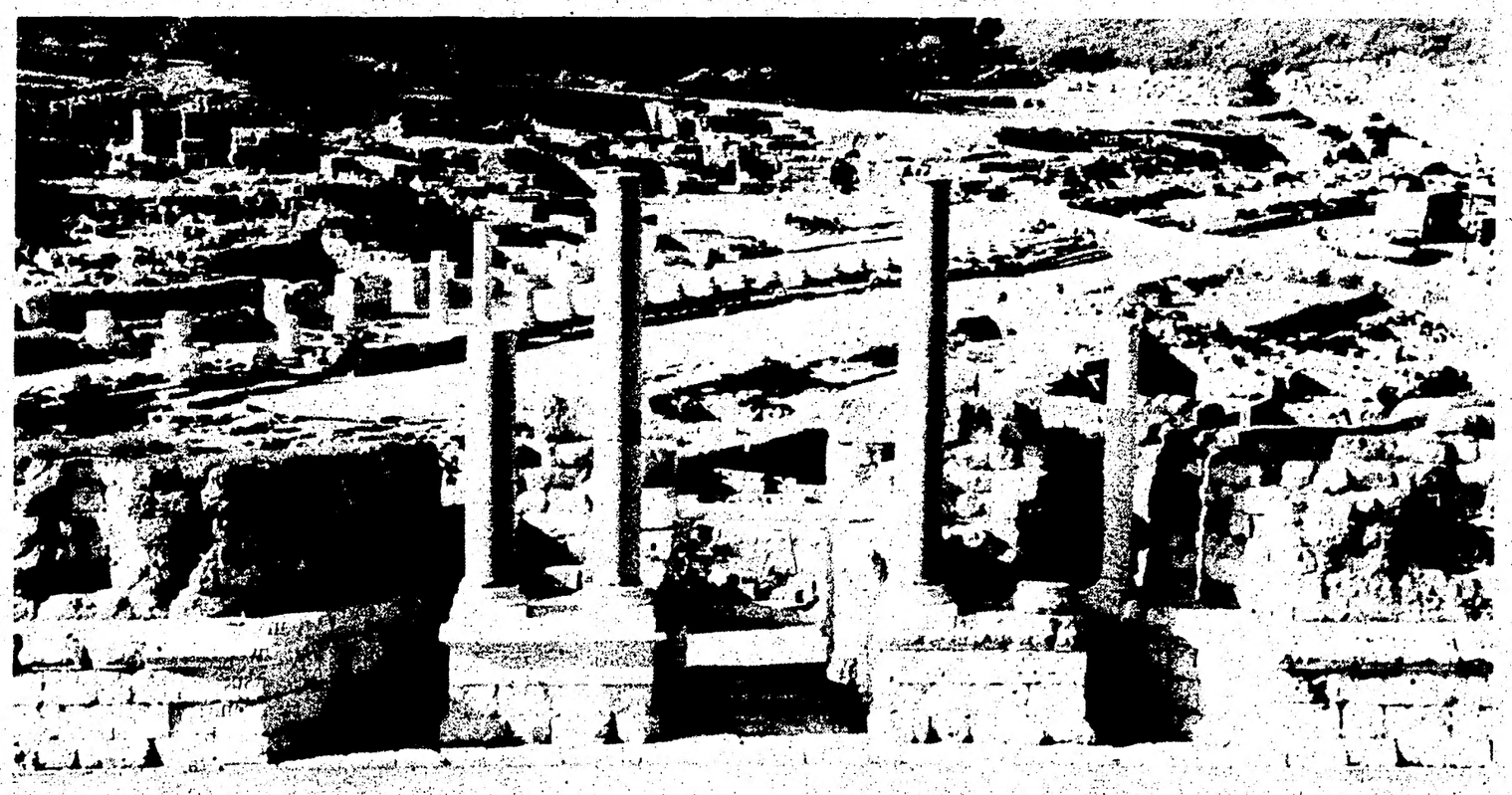
Beit Shean ruins turned into park

By SHELDON KIRSHNER



The glory of Scythopolis, now an Israeli national park. [Sheldon Kirshner photo]

BEIT SHEAN — Thanks to a massive earthquake more than a thousand years ago, Beit Shean has one of the finest ancient ruins in the world.

In 749 CE, the Roman/Byzantine town of Scythopolis was devastated by an earthquake which toppled ornate buildings and statuary. Scythopolis was thus preserved beneath rubble and earth and spared the ravages of time.

Today, Scythopolis is a national monument, one of the biggest, best preserved archeological sites in the Middle East.

Beit Shean, a sleepy development town in the Jordan Valley with a higher than average unemployment rate, declared the site a park in 1987.

Since then, Beit Shean — which is normally off the beaten track — has welcomed hundreds of thousands of tourists. By all accounts, the influx of Israelis and foreigners has led to an improvement in Beit Shean's economic situation.

The park, which is about a two hour drive from Tel Aviv, is spectacular.

The Roman theatre, which had an original seating capacity of 8,000, can now seat 2,400. Nevertheless, it's the largest Roman theatre in Israel.

In summer, it is used to stage plays, pop and classical concerts, operas and ballets. The acoustics are reportedly marvellous.

The amphitheatre, which is almost as impressive, once resounded to gladitorial spectacles pitting men against wild beasts. It remains unused.

Fallen columns lie everywhere, a testament to the ethereal beauty of Roman and Byzantine architecture.

Visitors can also poke around the ruins of baths, a colonnaded street which crossed Scythopolis' centre, a Roman temple, a basilica, a mosaic (the original is at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem), public toilets and, last but not least, a bordello.

Site faces Jordanian border

The site, which sprawls over 30 acres and faces the Jordanian border, is still being excavated and reconstructed with the assistance of the Jewish National Fund. So if you've already been here, you should look for more sights on your next visit.

In its heyday, Scythopolis was a commercial centre and the capital of the Byzantine province of Palestina Secunda. During the sixth century, the population reached a peak of 40,000, compared to 15,000 today.

Scythopolis prospered because it straddled major trade routes, was watered by springs and was surrounded by rich farmland.

Beit Shean itself, one of the oldest cities in the region, was conquered by King David from the Philistines. Later, Beit Shean became one of the administrative centres of King Solomon's kingdom.

With the Muslim conquest in the seventh century, it declined in importance. After the earthquake of 749, Beit Shean deteriorated into a backwater.

Under Ottoman and British rule, Beit Shean was a minor town. It still is today, never having regained its former stature.

But at least Beit Shean can bask in the glory of a long-lost city called Scythopolis.

TRAVEL TALK

Arkia, Israel's domestic airline, has recently introduced its Boeing 737 on the Tel Aviv- Eilat route. The plane, which holds 115 passengers, flies daily during weekdays and four times on the weekends. The flight time on the Boeing 737 is 30 minutes.

In addition, passengers on flights from Eilat will be transferred, free of charge, to their hotels. The domestic terminal at the Ben Gurion International Airport will be improved to service these flights.

A 15 percent discount will be given on tickets for mid-week flights on the Boeing 737 for a total cost of NIS 159. Weekend flights cost NIS 189.

For more information contact Arika Israel Airlines, Sde Dov Airport, P.O.B. 39301, Tel Aviv 91387, tel 011-972-3-6902222 or fax 011-972-3-6991390.

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Business & Finance

$$ Your Finances $$

By MARK GOODFIELD

As discussed in my article, Uncle Sam buckles down on income tax dodgers in the April 1 edition of *The CJN*, the IRS has been aggressively attempting to clamp down on taxpayers not complying with the income tax laws. As noted in the article, the United States was using a punitive approach to attempt to increase the number of people filing tax returns.

However, the IRS has softened its approach lately and is now attempting to entice more people to file as opposed to attempting to force them to file. This new act can be seen through the recent amendment that allows U.S. citizens to take advantage of the $70,000 foreign-earned income exclusion for any year. Previously this exclusion could only be made with a return filed within one year of its due date.

As a quick recap, U.S. citizens are subject to income tax on their worldwide income even if they no longer reside in the United States. They also must file U.S. income tax returns to report their worldwide income. To reduce the burden on U.S. citizens living in Canada, U.S. citizens are entitled in most cases to an exclusion of up to $70,000 on wages or self-employment income. Where the exclusion does not eliminate all an individual's tax liability, a foreign tax credit will have to be claimed to reduce double taxation. It should be noted that alternative minimum tax may be applicable even after taking the exclusion and the foreign tax credit claim.

Since many U.S. citizens were not aware of their filing requirements, they have not filed tax returns and thus, were previously not entitled to claim the exclusion if they subsequently wanted to file their returns. This has caused many U.S. citizens to just ignore their filing requirements. The IRS hopes that by putting forth these new rules, they will initiate voluntary filing compliance.

The rules work as follows:

1. If a taxpayer owes no income tax after utilizing the exclusion and files Form 1040 and Form 2555 (exclusion form) either before or after the IRS discovers the failure to elect, the taxpayer may file and claim the exclusion.

2. If a taxpayer owes income tax after taking into account the exclusion and files Form 1040 and Form 2555 before the failure to elect is discovered by the IRS, then the taxpayer can file and claim the exclusion. However, if the IRS discovers the taxpayer before they file and they owe income tax, a private ruling will be required (minimum fee is $500) to request access to the exclusion. Requesting a ruling will not guarantee that you can claim the exclusion.

The IRS is asking for tax returns for the last six years if they have not been filed previously. It should be noted that interest will be charged on income tax due, however, penalties may be waived upon application to the IRS.

Based on the above, if you are required to file U.S. tax returns and have not done so, this is an excellent opportunity to clean-up your U.S. tax situation, especially if you would owe no income tax after the exclusion.

(Mark Goodfield is a partner in Goodfield Girolanetto Chartered Accountants in Markham, Ont.)

Custom-made cabinets

By JANIS RAISEN

TORONTO — When Downsview Kitchens president Mike D'uva studied the cabinet business as a high school student in Italy, he didn't realize he was getting into it for life.

He founded his business in 1967 despite the fact he didn't speak any English. Downsview Kitchens now specializes in kitchen and bathroom cabinets, with showrooms all over the world.

"When we started here my dream was always to go down to California and finally I made it there," said D'uva, referring to his showroom in Los Angeles. There are showrooms in Honolulu, Tokyo and Florida, in addition to the two located in Toronto.

A 100,000-sq.ft. plant and showroom in Mississauga handles manufacturing for all the Downsview Kitchens showrooms. The Mississauga facility and a showroom located at Yonge and Eglinton streets employ close to 100 people.

Downsview Kitchens has always been both modern and traditional. In 1979 they followed the trend of selling European cabinets, but they custom-make to the different tastes and needs of their clients.

"We serve the whole market," D'uva said.

The recession has forced his company to find ways of producing merchandise at affordable prices without losing the quality that Downsview has earned a reputation for.

"Like anybody else we've been affected by the recession, but being a strong company we've been able to survive," D'uva said. "Downsview is known for quality product and service and I really believe in that — there's no question."

D'uva spends much of his time travelling to the other Downsview Kitchens dealers to update them on new trends. He considers all the dealers to be like "one big family." Most of the time work is a lot of fun, he said, and that is partly due to the people he works with. But it is also because he loves working in the cabinet business.

"This has been my life. I wasn't born for something else."

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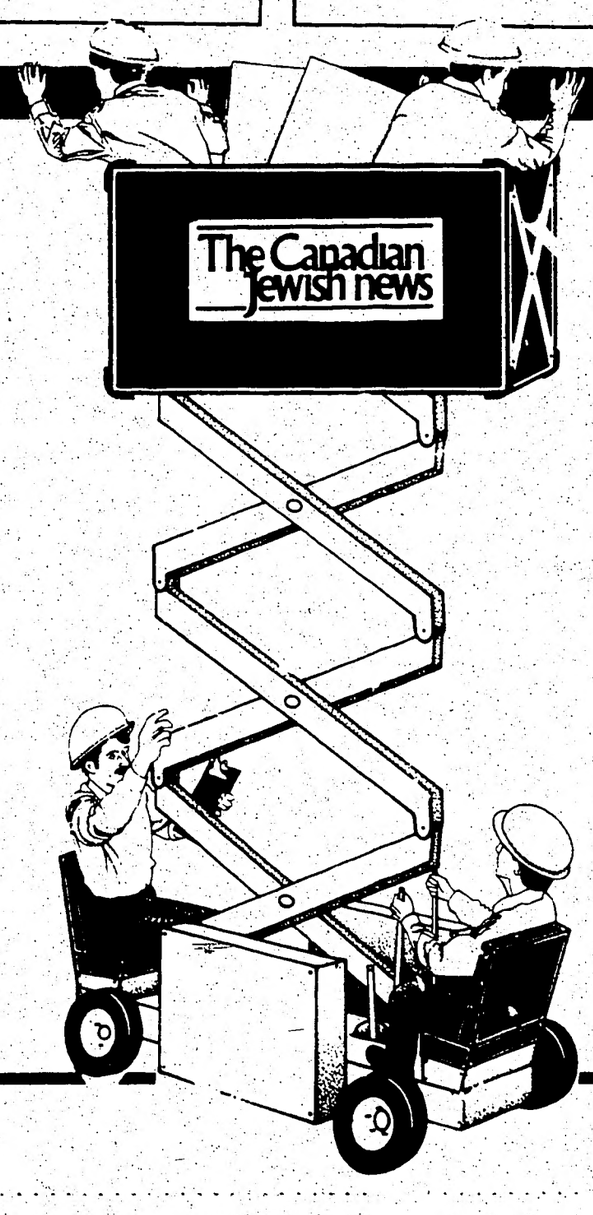

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Mr. Young would like to wish all his clients, friends and family a safe, happy and healthy New Year.

Business & Finance

ECONOMIC NEWS FROM ISRAEL

Jordan to fly over Israel?

TEL AVIV — Peace seems to be breaking out all over.

Israeli Transportation Minister Yisrael Kessar reported that he has received an indirect inquiry from Jordan about possible future permission for its planes to fly over Israeli airspace.

The inquiry was passed along via French airline authorities.

Jordanian officials asked if Israel would be interested in co-operating with Jordan and its Alia Royal Airline in allowing such flights which would cut travel time to Europe.

Word has it that the Jordanians would also be interested in establishing a regional charter service linking Amman, Jerusalem, Ben-Gurion Airport and the ancient Jordanian city of Petra to encourage regional and international tourism.

Kessar is reported to have already instructed El Al, Israel's international carrier, and Arkia, its domestic subsidiary, to study such regional air networks.

* * *

Bank expands its network

TEL AVIV —Bank Hapoalim, Israel's largest financial group, reports an extension of its banking network in the Far East in direct response to the growth of Israeli trade with Pacific Rim Asian countries.

Hapoalim, it is noted maintains correspondent banking relations with approximately 1,500 banks in about 100 countries, including some which do not maintain full formal diplomatic relations with Israel. Among these are the ties recently established with Asian banks in Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Fiji Islands and Sri Lanka.

Citrus power has appeal

TEL AVIV —A Tel Aviv firm, Environmental Protection Technologies (EPT), has come up with a technology to provide Israel's largest producer of frozen citrus concentrate with power.

The Gat processing plant handles 200,000 tonnes of oranges and grapefuit each year.

EPT has developed an aerobic digester to turn most of the plant's liquid waste into a gas comprising 80 percent methane and 20 percent carbon dioxide.

The biogas is stored and then fed to a generator where it provides 6MWh of electricity a day for the processing plant.

* * *

TASE hits record high

TEL AVIV —The Tel Aviv Stock Exchange surged to an all-time high as investors jumped on the bandwagon of euphoria induced by the proposed peace agreement.

The Maof index of the 25 largest stocks leaped 5.3 percent while the slightly broader Two-sided (Mishtanim) index rose by 4.7 percent to 224.8, both record highs.

Smaller stocks rose, albeit a little less. Turnover was extremely high at well over NIS 300 million ($107 million)

Market observers noted huge purchases of mutual funds by retail investors heartened by the 5 percent rise.

Economists gave the rise mixed reviews. Ezra Sadan, head of the Vulcani centre and a former Treasury director-general said the market's reaction was exaggerated. "The market reacted to optimism about the agreement with the Palestinians and not to the substance of the agreement. I hope the optimism is justified."

Charitable donations examined

By CYNTHIA GASNER

TORONTO — Toronto's David William Brown, a partner at Al G. Brown & Associates, an independent life insurance brokerage firm, was a featured speaker recently at the Million Dollar Round Table meeting in Boston. More than 5,000 members from around the world attended the annual meeting.

Brown, an 11-year Round Table member, discussed Charitable Giving in the Canadian Market. He highlighted current issues of interest in the life insurance industry. Round Table members are the top six percent of all insurance producers in the world. They represent more than 450 insurance companies in 44 nations and territories.

A partner with father Al and sister Golda Brown, David said that the family company, which specializes in estate planning, retirement planning and employee benefits, has been around for more than 40 years.

"We do not have the power to give our clients more time but we give them the equivalent of time — we can arrange for money which is required to complete their plans. We sell contracts for time and money. We cannot guarantee the time, but we can guarantee the money."

In his presentation, Brown reviewed the technical and universal aspects of charitable giving and provided an analysis of why individuals give to charitable organizations. He explained the different financial vehicles which can be used to obtain a large donation.

He told *The CJN* that many people are unaware that they can use a life insurance product to generate a substantial gift to a charity. "Many are amazed at the size of a charitable bequest which is within their means."

Benefits to using a life insurance gift for charitable purposes, he explained, include avoiding legal fees, taxes or administration charges, no probate is necessary and the gift is not subject to the Family Law Act in Ontario.

"We don't calculate a premium, we consider it a donation. The magic of charitable giving is not a matter of dollars and cents but rather a matter of love and concern for human beings.

The Browns are personally committed to the concept of charitable giving. David and his sister established a fund in honor of their parents 25th wedding anniversary. "The fund earns interest from cash deposits which are made on various family events," he said. "In addition, this fund will be the beneficiary of the joint insurance policy purchased by our parents."

The younger Brown holds both Chartered Life Underwriter and Chartered Financial Consultant designations. A member of the Estate Planning Council of Toronto, he has written numerous articles on charitable giving, insurance, succession and retirement planning.

As well, Brown earned Toronto's Leadership Development Award in 1989. He is active in the United Jewish Welfare Fund, Jewish Federation of Greater Toronto, Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue, the Associated Hebrew Schools, the Canada/Israel Gesher Foundation and he is presently the chairman of the Advisory Board of the Jewish Student's Union.

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Business & Finance

Campus Faces nets many smiles

By FRANCES KRAFT

TORONTO — Business partners Anton Rabie and Ronnen Harary, both 22, have parlayed a project they began as first-year students at the University of Western Ontario into an enterprise that grossed just under $100,000 in sales this past year.

The South African-born friends, who met at Camp Northland about 12 years ago, produce and distribute a free poster called Campus Faces at six Ontario universities. The 28 inch by 40 inch, full-color glossy poster consists of a collage of photos of students taken during frosh week, surrounded by about 30 eye-catching advertisements.

Both Rabie and Harary showed entrepreneurial instincts and a dedication to working hard at a young age. By the age of 14, Rabie, who is now in his last year at Western's Business School, had earned enough money from a paper route and a job scooping ice cream to invest in the stock market. "I used to call my broker between classes," he told *The CJN*, admitting that losses sustained in the 1987 crash scared him off the market.

He spent six months learning the ropes at an advertising agency following his graduation from A.Y. Jackson Secondary School.

Harary, a recent Political Science graduate, also began his work life with a paper route. He spent six months following graduation from York Mills Collegiate at an advertising agency where he "learned important [marketing] skills."

The friends "decided to capture the spirit of frosh week" in their posters by using photos representing as many student groups and activities as possible so that the maximum number of students would want to keep the poster on their wall all year.

They assembled their first collage in Harary's kitchen. Now they hire two students per campus to assemble the collages. Photos are taken by a student photographer. Advertisers the first year included Benetton and Big V, a well-known pharmacy chain in Western Ontario.

The following year — during the 1992 recession, notes Rabie — they expanded from one university to five (Western, Guelph, Waterloo, McMaster and Queens) and spent time in Toronto seeking advertising from big-name companies such as Hewlett-Packard and McDonald's, both of whose ads now appear on all six Campus Faces posters. This year the University of Toronto was added to their roster.

Hard work and good service to their clients help explain the success of Seiger Marketing (the official name of their venture). Their hands-on approach includes visiting each campus and helping advertisers design their student campaign.

"Service is a really big thing," Rabie said, adding that in order to ensure advertiser satisfaction, they "check and double check" that artwork for the ads is satisfactory before the posters are printed.

Seiger distributes 9,000 posters per university. "This is [the students'] yearbook," said Rabie. "They hold on to it. That's why this poster is so successful."

Anton Rabie, left, and Ronnen Harary pose with one of their Campus Faces posters.

• • •

Anton Rabie's association with McDonald's through Campus Faces led to a unique opportunity for him when he spent seven weeks in Moscow this summer doing marketing for their Russian operation.

George Cohon, senior chairman of McDonald's Restaurants of Canada Limited, admires Rabie's drive, he told *The CJN*. "They loved the work he did."

His marketing ideas, at first, were more suited to North America than to Russia, Rabie recalls. "It's a different type of marketing there. You keep things relatively simplistic."

Although McDonald's is "a little expensive for the average Russian," Rabie notes that even a small share of the market can be significant. There is a "huge" gap coming up between the rich and the poor in Moscow, he added.

Rabie's experience in Russia fulfilled a longtime dream of his. "I knew the [business] potential there would be incredible," he said.

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4 bdrms., 3 baths, shows well! Gorgeous lot, 80' frontage, asking $299,000. Call David Eichorn, Assoc. Broker, 787-1712.

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Attn. builders! Over 1/2 acre, 80'x320', possibility of severance! Asking $349,000. Call David Eichorn, Assoc. Broker, 787-1712.

HILLMOUNT
Well-maintained, spacious 3 bdrm. on 50'x137' lot – prime location. Asking $359,000. Call David Eichorn, Assoc. Broker, 787-1712.

FALKIRK/1ST AD
Charming 2 bdrm. bung. on prime 40' lot! Act fast – won't last! Only $239,000. Call David Eichorn, Assoc. Broker, 787-1712.

FAIRLAWN
40'x115' lot in demand location, only $219,000! Call David Eichorn, Assoc. Broker, 787-1712.

AVENUE ROAD/GLENCAIRN
Charming 3 bedroom on spacious 40'x175' lot, only $399,000. Call David Eichorn, Assoc. Broker, 787-1712.

HILLMOUNT/NEW HOME
4200 sq. ft., prime location. Choose your finishes. Call David Eichorn, Assoc. Broker, 787-1712.

BATHURST/LAWRENCE
Custom spacious ranch bungalow, 2000+ sq. ft., 3+2 bdrms. + den. Call David Eichorn, Assoc. Broker, 787-1712.

AVENUE ROAD/LAWRENCE
5 bdrm. + fam. rm. side-split on 70' lot. Cathedral ceilings. Asking $585,000 Call David Eichorn, Assoc. Broker, 787-1712.

CENTRAL OFFICE
787-1712
NORTH OFFICE
771-7100

Signature
Realty Limited

All of us
at Signature Realty
wish all of you
a Happy and Healthy
New Year

NORMAN HILL REALTY INC.
THE BEST ADVICE IS THE *right* ADVICE
40 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

NORMAN HILL REALTY INC.

Wishes
All Our
Clients & Friends
a
Happy & Healthy
New Year

226-5515

HOMELIFE

229-4454
24 hr paging service

STEVE GERLOCK
Associate Broker

SALLY TRIFLER
Sales Representative

Wishing all our clients, friends & their families a
Happy, Healthy & Prosperous New Year

Homelife /Partners Realty Inc.

Sutton GROUP - towne centre realty inc.

Ahuva & staff wish all their clients, friends & relatives a Happy, Healthy & Prosperous New Year

לשנה טובה

Ahuva Simone
President

222-2003

A "Couple" of Great Ways to Sell your House

RHONDA ABONY
Sales Representative

PERRY STEINBERG
Associate Broker

מיטב ברכותינו
לשנת אושר ובריאות

Best wishes to All of You for a happy and healthy New Year.

Homelife//Partners Realty Inc. (416) 229-4454

ALAN UNGERMAN
REALTY LIMITED REALTOR

BATHURST MANOR — SMART BUY! LG. 3 bdrm. sidesplit, dbl. gar., extras galore! Value at $299,900. Ted Waxman, 731-7111.

BATHURST MANOR. Spacious 3 bdrm. bung., hdwd. flrs., bsmnt. apt., huge lot! $269,900. Evelyn Pollock, 731-7111.

BATHURST-FINCH. Lg. 4 bdrm., in-law apt., move-in cond., $234,900. Garry Hazin, 731-7111.

BATHURST-CLARK — VACANT 4 bdrm. + sept. nanny's qtrs., near all amenities. $274,900. Dillon Jones 731-7111.

BATHURST-STEELES — 3 bdrm., semi bung., new broadloom + bsmnt. in-law apt., $219,000. Ted Waxman, 731-7111.

BATHURST-STEELES TOWNHOUSE. 3 bdrm., master ensuite, rec rm. with firepl., $176,500. Gabby Goldring, 731-7111.

BATHURST-CENTRE — TRY AN OFFER! Lg. 3 bdrm., mn. flr. fam. rm., 2 firepl., dbl. gar., $249,900. Garry Hazin, 731-7111.

BATHURST-CLARK — STARTER. Freehold 3 bdrm., fin. bsmnt., gar., bargain - $199,000. Ted Waxman, 731-7111.

BATHURST/YORK HILL — RARE FIND! 3 bdrm., sunken liv. rm., fin. bsmnt. + nanny's rm., Paula Bernstein, 731-7111.

ALLAN UNGERMAN
BRIAN GREENSPAN
Sales Agents & Staff
wish you a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year

Shana Tova to all our Friends & Clients

RANDY & MARVIN COHEN

BATHURST CENTRE $429,900 BEAUTY
Luxury & unique qual. 5 bdrm home & fin bsmt, upgrades galore. Just name it & it's there on a quiet Cres, **East Side**.

BATHURST CLARK $224,900
Just listed. Det 3 bdrm home & fin. bsmt, fireplace, new broadlm, ceramics, air, security, ensuite etc, mint condition.

BATHURST CLARK $280,000. 4 BDRMS
Det. Fam rm. Fireplace, Ensuite, Spacious, Nice Kitchen, fin. bsmt. & priced to sell.

THINKING OF SELLING – ASK THE COHENS FOR THEIR 100% SATISFACTION GUARANTEE OR YOUR MONEY BACK.

REMAX/REALTRON REALTY INC.
764-6000

MICHAEL SPAGAT & **BRADLEY J. BROWN**
Associate Broker — Sales Representative

HOMELIFE/CENTRAL REALTY LIMITED
8185 YONGE ST. #203 IN THORNHILL
(416) 731-3433

Would like to wish all their clients and friends A VERY HAPPY, HEALTHY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

LARNELL
REAL ESTATE LIMITED
Sheldon Laiwint
Broker
782-0888

ARMOUR HEIGHTS, Sandringham. $550,000. Reduced. Gorgeous 4 bdrm., mn. flr. den, fin. bsmnt., modern kitch., country setting, on cul-de-sac.

BAYVIEW-EGLINTON DUPLEX. $375,000. Reduced. Choice Leaside investment property.

DUFFERIN-EGLINTON. $250,000. Reduced. Store + apt. 1st offering. Priced to sell quickly! Fully leased.

HOMELIFE
HOMELIFE/PARTNERS REALTY INC.
ILLEANE SEGAL
Sales Represntative
229-4454

BATHURST/FINCH
$399,000 Over 3,000 sq. ft., 2 stry. 4+1 bdrms, 4 baths, 2 kits, fully finished home. Motivated vendors.

ROSEDALE/NORTH
$338,900 5/6 bdrms. Fully fin. bsmt. Many upgrades. Move in condition.

WILLOWBROOK AREA
$399,900 Over 3,000 sq. ft. house and garden decor. 4 bdrms.

GREENLANE AREA
$159,900 — 1+1 condo. 2 baths, motivated vendor
$319,900 — Fully upgraded 4+1 bdrm. 4 baths, finished bsmt. Move in condition.
$950,000 — 1 acre ravine property. One of a kind 5+ bdrms, 6 baths. Separate in-law or nanny's quarters. Located demand area.

BRIDLEPATH
PROGRESSIVE REAL ESTATE INC REALTOR

Wishing all of our clients & friends a Happy & Healthy New Year

Your sales representatives
Bridlepath Progressive Real Estate Inc. Realtor
449-0090

MY WARMEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY, HEALTHY & PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

HARVEY FRANKEL
Sales Representative
229-4454
HOMELIFE/PARTNERS REALTY INC.

GETTING RESULTS FOR YOU . . . IS MY BUSINESS

HOMELIFE

"Wishing my Clients, Family & Friends a Happy & Healthy New Year

ROBIN KORMAN
Diamond Award Winner
Sales Representative 764-7111

RE/MAX
Realtron Realty Inc.

Shelley Koral, B.A. MVA
Associate Broker
764-6000

Market Value Appraiser Residential

Your Assurance of a Realistic Appraisal Reflecting The Market Environment.

Sincerest Wishes to Family, Clients & Friends for a Happy & Healthy New Year

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HOMELIFE
HOMELIFE/PARTNERS REALTY INC.
SHAMI ZIMMERMAN. B.A.
Sales Representative
229-4454

Wishing all my clients, friends & family a Happy & Healthy New Year

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ALAN UNGERMAN
REALTY LIMITED REALTOR
TED WAXMAN
Sales Representative
wishes all his Clients, a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year
Bus. 731-7111 **Res. 667-8076**

PARTNERS REALTY INC.
169 Willowdale Ave.
Willowdale
229-4454

HOMELIFE HIGHER STANDARDS

We extend our warmest wishes for a Happy & Healthy New Year

ALLAN KROCH & BEVERLEY WISE
"YOUR PARTNERS IN-REAL ESTATE"
HomeLife/Partners Realty Inc.

VICTOR FISCHLER
229-1010
Sales Representative
Sutton Group - Central Realty Inc.
HAPPY & HEALTHY NEW YEAR TO ALL MY CLIENTS & FRIENDS

HELEN WINER
Sales representative
ALAN NEWTON REAL ESTATE LTD REALTOR
764-7200

Happy & Healthy New Year to all my clients, friends & relatives

Signature Realty Limited
730-1077

PERRY WAISGLASS

On behalf of Tina, Jeanna & myself.

I want to wish everyone a Happy & Prosperous New Year

SARAH ROVET
Sales representative
ALAN NEWTON
764-7200
L'Shana Tova

Sarah Rovet would like to wish all her relatives, friends & clients a very happy, healthy & prosperous New Year.

NINA POLLOCK
Sales Rep

In this New Year Homelife/Homes Inc. is pleased to welcome *Nina Pollock.*

Nina has a proven track record and shows excellence in her field.

The Toronto Real Estate Board still puts HOMELIFE as #1 on their membership roster.
"WE'RE THE OBVIOUS CHOICE"

We wish you a Happy and a Healthy New Year

730-0357
3292 BAYVIEW AVE.

SEIDMAN
REAL ESTATE LIMITED REALTOR
633-7373

SHEPPARD BATHURST
$289,000. 4 bdrm. + den, fam. rm., liv & din. comb., fin. bsmnt. Dble drive, gar.

BATHURST YORK DOWNS
New, quality built 5 bdrm, 2 storey, library, fam. rm., cust. kit., dble gar., great buy!

BATHURST WILSON
$129,900. Just listed! 2 bdrm condo., 2 bths, balc., facing south. A. Rosenthal.

DREWRY BATHURST
$264,000. Well-maint. 3 bdrm, 2 bths, Hollywood kit., fin. bsmnt., dble gar.

SHEPPARD FINCH
$229,000. 3 bdrm., 2 bths, 2 kits, fin. bsmnt., gar. Don't miss!

BLUE FOREST AREA
Cust. built, split lvl., 3 bdrms, huge liv & din., fam. rm., lge kit., built-in appls., fin. bsmnt., dble gar.

A. & D. SEIDMAN 633-7373

RANDY KALEF REAL ESTATE INC.

Our best wishes for a Happy & Healthy New Year
לשנה טובה תכתבו
443-8818

UPPER FOREST HILL
Gorgeous 4 bedrm, m.f. pwdr rm, fam rm + sun rm, white kit, 2 car garage, CAC - 10+++! $449,000.

AVENUE RD./DAVENPORT — NEW LISTING!
Stunning 2 storey, 2 bedroom condo, 2 full baths, sauna, family rm, ens. ldry. Perfection!

HUNTER'S POINT — YONGE/HWY 7
Superb exec. home - 4 bedrm, 3 baths, ens. jacuzzi, circ. staircase, m.f. fam rm, ldryrm, dble garage. 324,900.

RUTH HALPERIN
RE/MAX ULTIMATE RLTY INC
RLTR 487-5131

THORNHILL — JUST LISTED BATHURST/CENTRE
MARKWOOD LANE. 475,000 Prestigious street, 4 Bdrm. mn fl. fam & study, prof. landscaped!

ROSEBOROUGH CR. 339,900. Prime Rosedale North, 4 Bdrm, mn. fl. fam, fin. bsmt!

TOBI GOLDMAN-HAHN
889-9330
Associate Broker, Royal LePage Real Estate Services Ltd., Realtor

BAYVIEW-YORK MILLS
Potential treed lot, 75x151', w/ 3-b.r. bung., dbl. gar. Excellent buy. Santee Leung, 441-2003, **SANTEE REALTY INC.**

5 HOUSES FOR SALE

LAWRENCE-BATHURST
2,550 sq. ft. Bungalow 3 Bedroom & family room, gorgeous foyer & skylight. Heated pool, outstanding property. Sally Rosen 884-4425 Century 21 Smith Ltd.

JUST LISTED
Gorgeous 3 Bedroom Bungalow plus 2 Bedroom in-law Apt., 2 car garage, steps to all amenities. Sally Rosen 884-4425 Century 21 Smith Ltd.

10 HOUSES FOR SALE PRIVATE

Bathurst/Centre $319,000 Modern 2 bdrm adult home on large private lot, main flr fam rm & laundry. Many lux features, "2" firpls, skylight, 2 car gar+ 600s.f. deck/hot tub. 886-8288.

Bathurst/Lawrence. Modern 6 bdrm, 6 bath. Indoor pool. 4,500s.f. $990,000. Serious inquiries only, 785-4422.

30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE

SKYMARK REVIEW DON MILLS & FINCH

ELEGANCE: well appointed & numerous upgr. 2 b.r. + fam. + sol. Approx. 1,889 sq. ft. + balc. Great reduction for fast sale.
SKYMARK I: lge. upgr., open concept, 2-b.r. + solarium. Pinnacle model. Well priced. For our updated inventory call Mr. Santee Leung **THE SKYMARK SPECIALIST,** 441-2003/24 hrs. on call, carphone + pager. **SANTEE REALTY INC.**

LUXURY LIVING IN 1,524 SQ. FT. CONDO
Bayview/Greenlane (landmark), 2 Bdrm + den, 2 baths, 5 appl, lge. white kit, 9th fl. south view, security, indoor pool. Best time to buy at bargain price! Asking $214,900. To view this or others, please call
Eva Ungar, Assoc. Broker **370-3272**
Sutton Group Central Realty Inc. 229-1010

THE MOST SPECTACULAR SUITE!
A 3,000 sf penthouse in Skymark - facing south - superbly renovated. For viewing call Laura Barnett, Homelife/Partners Realty Inc. 229-4454

"BEST BUY IN LANDMARK" — Bayview/Greenlane 2 bdrm + den, 1,524 sq ft, south view. Call Eva 633-9258.

- **90 FISHERVILLE.** 2 bd., corner, $144,500. Galya Hoffer, 731-7111.
- **55 SKYMARK.** 2 bd. reno, $255,000. T. Waxman, 731-7111.
- **100 ANTIBES.** Penth. 2,000'+ $234,900. G. Hazin, 731-7111.

UNGERMAN RLTY. RLTR.

GIDEON WAICHENBERG
Thinking of retiring in a luxury condo at Bathurst & Steeles? Let me show you 10-15 beautiful suites from $140,000. Re/Max Vista Rlty. 520-5700. Gideon
"Best wishes for a Happy & Healthy New Year"

GIDEON WAICHENBERG
Bathurst & Steeles, PRIMROSE condos available. RE/MAX VISTA REALTY INC. Gideon 520-5700.

BATHURST-FINCH-STEELES
1-2-3 bd. condos for sale. Your choice. Anxious vendors. 665-3044. George Baron Rltr.

Bathurst/Clark, Promenade. 2 bdrm, 2 bath. 1,250s.f. Appliances. Thousands in upgrades. Eat-in kitchen. Western sunsets. Sacrifice. 660-5447.

35 CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT

"Conservatory"
•Clark & Hilda •Ground floor •2 bdrm, 2 full baths •Kitchen with window •Ensuite laundry •1211 sq. ft.
RICHARD PILARSKI
RE/MAX REALTRON REALTY INC.
222-8600

Bathurst/Lawrence. $106 below rent control. Lge 1 bdrm plus sun den/bdrm, bkfst room, 5 appl, 24hr guard, pvt park, gym, sauna, util, cable, pkg incl. $995. Lve message, 782-2251.

35 CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT

A+ luxury. Bathurst/Steeles (Courtland). 24 hour security. 1,450s.f. plus den. 2 bdrm, 2 bath, 2 parking. Air. 5 appls, cable. $1,250/month. 667-1558.

Sheppard/Yonge. Furnished luxury 2 bdrm, 2 bath. Pool, security, balcony, all amenities. Nov 1-May 1. $2,000. 730-1241

60 SHARED ACCOMMODATION

Wanted: Profess. male/female to look for and share apt with female. October 1. 785-8356.

75 APARTMENT FOR RENT

Bathurst Manor. Furnished 1 bdrm bsmt apt. 635-7349.

BATHURST/SHEPPARD
1, 2 & 3 Bedroom Apts.
highrise
Only 6 apts on each floor
960-3238 - Bus.
631-9377 or 631-0388 - Super

75 APARTMENT FOR RENT

SENIORS' BUILDING
Eglinton/Bathurst
Bachelor & 1 Bedroom Apt.
Walk to Shops and Subway.
Clean, quiet 8 year old building, T.T.C. at door, recreation facilities.
789-0820

Bathurst/ Wilson/ Wilson Heights. University student?/ Work along subway route? 1 bdrm, self-contained, brand new bsmt apt. $625/month (all inclusive). Driveway for car. Walk to Wilson subway station. Friendly female and four furry felines live upstairs. Phone Joyce, 636-6618. Leave detailed message.

Bathurst/Finch. Well furnished 2 bdrm, 2 bath. Dec 1-March 31. Parking. 638-2496.

Bathurst/Lawrence. Furn 1 bdrm bsmt. Sep ent. Parking. Close to TTC. 789-1515.

Bathurst/Lawrence. New lrg 2 bdrm, balc, ldry, pkg. 782-7181.

Bathurst/Sheppard. 2 bdrm. with underground parking. From Dec 1. 5th floor. Facing Earl Bales Park. 635-5031.

75 APARTMENT FOR RENT

New 1 bdrm bsmt apt. Atkinson/ Centre. Non-smoker. Close to bus. $700 incl. 886-5823 evgs.

125 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR SALE

Boca Raton. One of a kind oceanfront. "Beachhouse" with all the amenities of a luxury highrise condo. Large 1,500s.f. lanai. 1 bdrm, 1 1/2 baths. Walkout to pool, ocean and private garden. Fully renovated, 11 windows facing ocean. Best value on the beach. $159,900u.s. 407-395-2033.

Palm Aire - Cypress Bend
Buying, Selling or Renting. Call us for all your Real Estate needs.
Wieder Realty Inc.
(305) 978-8300

130 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR RENT

Arlen House. 1 bdrm convertible. 2nd floor. 4 month minimum. Mrs. Cohen, 636-6470.

Aventura. 1 bdrm, 1 bath. Min from shuls, beaches. $1,125u.s. Minimum 4 months. 881-1062.

Hollybrook. 1 bdrm, 1 1/2 bath. Completely reno'd spectacular apt. 4 month min. 445-9118.

Palm Aire, Pompano. 2B/2B condo, furnished. Seasonal rental beginning February. 731-3300 or 514-481-0943.

Palm Aire. Newly furnished 2 bdrm, 2 bath. 6th floor. Call Mr or Mrs. Cogan days, 613-728-0176 or eves 613-523-6628.

Pompano Beach, 2 bdrm, 2 bath. Close to beach. 881-1432.

Tamarac, Lime Bay. Newly furnished 1 bdrm, 1 1/2 bath condo. Clubhouse, pool, tennis, golf nearby. 486-1739.

Miami Beach. Lux 1 bdrm conv, 2 bath. Season. Close shul, shabbos elev. 979-2688.

140 FLORIDA ACCOMMODATION WANTED

Hollywood Beach/Hallandale area. Wanted: 2/2 apt on ocean. December. 493-9069.

145 FLORIDA SHARED ACCOM. WANTED

North Miami Beach. Lady to share 1 bedroom apartment. Call 665-4690.

155 ISRAEL PROPERTY FOR SALE

Luxury gated estate Ramat Hasharon, adjacent country club, 1/3 acre usable lot, 4,000 square feet, entertainers delight, mature landscaped garden, separate entrance, above ground finished basement. $1,300,000. (514) 935-5141.

160 ISRAEL PROPERTY FOR RENT

Jerusalem, Central. Near Wolfson. Furn. 4 bdrm. apt. Knesset view. Mid-Oct. '93 monthly or longer term. Kosher. Shomer Shabbos. 633-8903.

165 ISRAEL PROPERTY FOR SALE/RENT

NOW AVAILABLE
Spacious 3 bedroom apartment for lease or sale. Located in Central Haifa. Great view. Excellent opportunity. For more information please call Mr. Ellis 663-7127

200 OFFICE SPACE

Medical Space Available
Bathurst & Wilson
Long established practices (Pediatricians etc.)
3 months free rent. Pharmacy in building. Suzanne 633-6828 during office hours.

240 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Coordinator needed to run Allenby Public School "After 4" program, 1-2 days weekly. Call 486-6531 or 483-7250.

Sales help for bakery. Eglinton/Bathurst area. 482-3106.

Salesperson, experienced, for poster and framing gallery. Part-time, 3 days on weekends. Eglinton/Avenue. Hourly salary depending on exp. 481-5127.

250 DOMESTIC HELP AVAILABLE

Need a nanny?
Top Nannies, Housekeepers Companions, Couples and Health Care Aides
DIAMOND DOMESTICS
730-8866

Cleaning lady avail with references. 782-7592 early evenings

Cleaning lady available. Bonded & reliable. Mirella, 770-3709.

Domestic Referral Services
Nannies/ Housekeepers/ Elder care/ House Cleaning. Temps avail. Ellen Shiewitz **886-1630.**

Excellent cleaning lady to clean homes, offices. 661-1598.

High quality house cleaning. Call Dora, 736-1179.

Hire a bubby for babysitting. Experienced lady available, full-time, Monday-Friday. Bathurst/ Sheppard/ Thornhill area. Call Helen, 665-6406.

Mature woman with experience is looking for a job to take care of elderly. Live-out. Good references. 250-6618.

Nannies available immediately. Full/part time. Cleaning, caring for elderly. Number 1 Domestic Service, 630-0674.

Polish lady (35) looking for work, preferably steady cleaning. Irena, 537-9198 (after 8pm)

Woman seeks work caring for elderly or infant, 5 days/week. References available. 789-5955

255 DOMESTIC HELP WANTED

Babysitter needed 3 days weekly for 2 year old. Light housework. Refs. 881-4047.

Babysitter, part-time, for 1 year old boy. Days and/or evenings. 660-0101, 9am-9pm only.

Bubby wanted to care for 4 year old girl after school. Tuesday-Friday. Bayview/York Mills. References. 444-5003.

Jewish lady required to care for elderly couple. Full-time. Live-out. References required. 398-6833 leave message.

Live-in companion required for elderly Yiddish speaking gentleman in Hamilton area. Free room and board plus salary. For information call 416-681-2774.

Wanted: Babysitter, flexible, part-time, for 2 delightful boys (8 and 32 months) in our home. Non-smoker. Excellent English. References. Call 787-2175.

115 COTTAGE FOR RENT/SALE

MARTY TANENBAUM
Sales Representative
Living and working in cottage country to serve you better
(705) 327-7220 Res.
(705) 325-8642 Bus.
(705) 325-2760 Fax
COLDWELL BANKER
COLDWELL BANKER CLEARWAY REAL ESTATE
150 MISSISSAUGA ST., W., ORILLIA

260 BUSINESS PERSONALS

Don't give up!! Call Chai Introductions. Since 1975. Unlimited time. Reasonable. 783-7666.

Jewish Contemporary Singles. Unique and affordable since 1985. Monthly memberships also available. 250-1345.

Jewish Singles Registry. You choose your own date based on photo and biography. 398-7068.

The Orthodox Connection: A discreet, international matchmaking service for shomer shabbat and kosher singles. Zelig & Ahava Spillman, 886-4042.

YES YOU CAN
Meet someone single, attractive, and right for you. Let's discuss it. Call **JEWISH DATELINE**, 789-0110.

265 PEOPLE SEARCH

Lusia Strudler-Caspi, living in Jerusalem, is looking for her sister **Clara Strudler,** born in 1924, Lvov, Poland. Father Julius, mother Fanya. Please call Sally, 787-8779 (Toronto) if you have any information.

275 PERSONAL COMPANIONS WANTED

REPLYING TO A COMPANION AD WITH A CJN BOX NUMBER?

For these ads simply address your mail to:

Box_____
The Canadian Jewish News
10 Gateway Blvd.,
Suite 420
Don Mills, Ontario
M3C 3A1

A really good-looking, stylish producer, 40, seeks a bored, free to travel, shapely, gorgeous knockout. 236-6988.

Are you my soulmate by any chance? I'm a spontaneous, easygoing, warm, attractive woman. I value good communication, intelligence and have a strong interest in personal growth. I enjoy the great outdoors, movies, theatre, fine dining, travel. I hope to attract a kind hearted, affectionate, attractive man in his late 20's to late 30's with a great sense of humour and a passion for life. I'm looking for a long term relationship. Please reply with photo to Box 5969 CJN.

Hi, let me introduce myself. I'm a 31 year old non-smoking SJF. I'm a successful professional, slim, 5'4", 108lbs. and fit. I like to work out and good health and wellness are important to me. I've been described as pretty, cute with a sexy flair. I love all kinds of entertainment and sports, hockey and baseball. Personal growth is important to me and I'm open minded to trying new ideas and activities. I'd like to meet a slim, good looking SJM between 30-38, non-smoking and who wants a serious relationship that will lead to marriage. What attracts me is a very masculine man who is self confident, educated and stable in his life and career. If you think this sounds like you, I want to know about it. Send recent photo if possible. Box 5972 CJN.

Just turned 30 the other day
A personal ad - No way! Way!
Seinfeld, movies, dancing, food
Would really help set the mood.
Romance, spontaneity and
good looks are a must
Honesty counts here, in your
response I'll trust.
So take a chance,
this female is waiting
This could be the end
to years of dating!
Non-smokers only need apply,
You've got nothing to lose-
so give it a try!
Please send recent photo, I'll be sure to return it. Box 5968 CJN.

275 PERSONAL COMPANIONS WANTED

Lady, professional, traditional Jewish values, enjoys long walks, looking for a warm hearted gentleman (45-50) with a good sense of humour. Box 5971 CJN.

Male, 36, professional, good sense of humour, honest, down to earth, kind heart, kosher home, slim, non-smoker, never married, seeks younger woman with similar qualities. Box 5965 CJN.

Professional, 50, well established male, kind, generous, loves sports, travel, wining & dining, close companionship, seeks attractive female, 35-45, for potential long term relationship. Box 5962 CJN.

Single man, 51, wishes to meet attractive woman for companionship. Box 5970 CJN.

Very fit and active semi-retired widower, 69, traditional but not orthodox, committed to Yiddish and interested in travel, lectures, jogging, biking, skating and reading, would welcome hearing from a lady in her late 50's, who enjoys life and wants to share these interests. An intelligent Jewish woman who is slim, attractive, outgoing and non-smoker and who values generosity, integrity, sharing and building a future together. Please send a letter and a recent photo. Box 5941 CJN.

Single professional handsome man, mid-40's, seeks a serious relationship with good-hearted, attractive, romantic, educated and sincere lady in her mid-30's. Ready to settle down and start a family with traditional Jewish values. Reply with photo if possible, brief note and phone number. Box 5939 CJN.

280 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mothers and toddlers program, 15 months to 2 1/2 years. At Earl Bales. Some spaces available. Call Sally, 638-5417.

285 SOCIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Burstein-Zimmerman
Earl Zimmerman and Gloria Zimmerman are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Marla to Sonny, son of Hy and Zuzik Burstein. A June wedding is planned. Mazel Tov!

300 ARTICLES FOR SALE

Curio cabinet, corner unit, pure wood. Call 783-5343.

Double waterbed $200, teak office desk $80, 4 cushion sofa $350, French provincial swivel armchair (green leather) $225, inlaid coffee table $125 plus other items. 736-8428.

For the holidays. Perma-press white tablecloths made in Israel. Sizes from 54x72" to 63x144". Round and oval also available. Britstone Textile, 785-8140, 155 Bentworth Avenue, Toronto.

Full length white Mink coat with fox trim. Size 14-16. Never worn. Retail $6,000, sacrifice $2,400. Phone 482-1390.

Special child's Lulav with Haddasim and Ravot, only $13. Adult Etrogim sets available at affordable prices. Miriam's Fine Judaica, 3007 Bathurst Street, 781-8261.

Sukkah. Canvas and bamboo. 6x4'. $150. 731-9811.

Y. Podesva, original oil painting "Still Life with Cherries" 20"x24", His artwork has been exhibited throughout Canada, including Holy Blossom Temple and Art Gallery of Ontario.
Hong Kong Coalport China. 8 5-piece place settings.
Lalique "Angel" glasses (6). 416-387-6876 (Hamilton).

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330 OBITUARIES

Cohen, Ian on August 28, 1993, late of 30 Lower Links
Goodman, Max on August 28, 1993
Gordon, Ben on August 27, 1993
Grammer, Sarah on August 27, 1993, late of Terrace Gardens Nursing Home
Katz, Rose on August 28, 1993, late of 333 Clark Ave. W. #807
Kwasniewski, Morris on August 29, 1993
Posner, Charles on August 28, 1993
Roif, Ita on August 26, 1993, late of 2 Denava Gate
Schneiderman, Rose on August 26, 1993
Applebaum, Louis on September 4, 1993, late of 25 Canyon Ave., #403
Bargman, Jack on September 3, 1993, late of 3303 Don Mills Rd., #306
Cegelnicki (Segal) Jenta (Yetta) on August 31, 1993, late of 55 Ameer Ave., #303
David, Sarah on September 1, 1993, late of 50 Snowshoe Crescent
Fiksenbaum, Harold Leo on September 4, 1993, late of 92 Strathearn Ave.
Lambersky, John on September 1, 1993
Miller, Yanka on September 2, 1993, late of 66 Bainbridge Ave.
Schacht, Eva on August 30, 1993, late of 525 Sheppard Ave. W. #504
Shiffman , Tillie on August 30, 1993
Weber, Fritz on August 31, 1993, late of 300 Antibes Dr., #202

Steeles-College Memorial Chapel

Jennie Thornton on Aug 27/93, late of 429 Walmer Road
Newton Zemans on Aug 29/93, late of 645 Castlefield Avenue #614
Lyla Biller on Aug 28/93, late of 57 Greenbrook Drive
Ernest Simon on Aug 29/93, late of 163 Lord Seaton Road
Eon Gilmore on Aug 28/93, late of 124 Frederick Street
Donald Auerbach on Aug 29/93, late of 28 Kings Inn Trail
Marye Ginsburg on Aug 30/93, late of 1035 Eglinton Ave West
Nathan Belmont on Aug 30/93, late of 99 Combe Avenue
Morris Kleinberg on Aug 31/93, late of 35 Canyon Avenue #907
Sheldon Vogel on Aug 30/93, late of 10 Torresdale Avenue #2008
Ben Miller on Aug 31/93, late of 21 Stonedene Blvd.
Manny Swadron on Aug 31/93, late of 65 Spring Garden Avenue #511
Irving Siegel on Sep 2/93, late of 605 Finch Avenue #720

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
William Zupnik ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, September 19th
12:00 noon
Pardes Shalom Memorial Park
B'nai Torah Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
Esther Haber ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, September 19th
10:30 a.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
Beth ShalomSection
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

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335 UNVEILING

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
Sarah Wargon ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, September 19, at 10 a.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
Workmen's Circle Section 6
Memorial Service following, 10:45 a.m.–1 p.m.
at the Workmen's Circle Centre, 471 Lawrence Ave. West
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
Brian Lawrence Wasser ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, September 19th
11:00 a.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
Beth Shalom Synagogue Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
ABRAHAM RAUCHWERGER ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, September 19th
11:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Lodzer Centre Congregation Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
Rachel Feldman ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, September 19th
11:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
National Order Hatzofim Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
ARON LEON GREEN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, September 19th
12:00 noon
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Zaglembier Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
Mary (Marka) Bongard ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, September 19th
10:30 a.m.
Dawes Road Cemetery
Drildzer Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
Minnie Goldman ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, September 19th
2:00 p.m.
Lambton Mills Cemetery
Royal York Road
Grand Order of Israel Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
Bella Eisen ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, September 19th
10:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
U.J.P.O. Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
IRVING WOLFMAN ז"ל
loving husband, father and grandfather
will take place
Sunday, September 19th, at 11:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Ostrovtzer Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
ADOLF WEISMAN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, September 19th, at 11:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Yeshiva Torath Chaim Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

TO PLACE AN UNVEILING NOTICE PLEASE CALL AT LEAST 14 DAYS PRIOR TO THE UNVEILING DATE.

Montreal's oldest shul a monument to Jewish past

By JANICE ARNOLD

MONTREAL — Entering the little Beth Shloime synagogue, located in a converted red-brick turn-of-the century duplex on Clark Street at Bagg, is like stepping back in time. Little has changed in the shul since it opened in 1922.

A Yiddish sign in the small lobby still admonishes visitors not to spit on the floor; a grubby washbasin with a tin cup stands outside the sanctuary. The linoleum tile floor has seen better days.

Joe Brick, a retired electrician wearing a baseball cap, greets you. Officially, he's the synagogue's financial secretary. Along with Marvin Berson (of the nearby monument company), they comprise the board of officers. Brick, who is "above 60" and has gone to the shul all his life, keeps the place going. He still lives on Clark, one of the few Jews in the neighborhood today.

The shul hasn't had a rabbi since the 1950s, but usually can manage a minyan on Saturdays and will hold High Holy Days services again this year with Lubavitch layman Zvi Spigelman.

Nothing on the exterior prepares one for the charming sanctuary inside, with its bright robin's egg blue walls, simple painted seats and the sweeping bannister of the women's balcony that curves around overhead. It seats about 350 in total.

An elaborately carved aron kodesh, from the old Shaar Hashomayim on McGill College, dominates the room. The bimah, usually, is in the middle of the sanctuary among the pews. Colorful stained glass tops the Ark and windows.

A natural aura from a skylight supplements the old-fashioned lampposts bringing out the brilliance of the robin's egg walls.

Also eyecatching is the panel of paintings under the balcony. Executed by an artist best known for his murals in moviehouses, these animals and other odd pictures like scales are from the zodiac and are inscribed with the corresponding Hebrew month. Two majestic lions flank the Ark.

Humble though Beth Shloime (formally called Congregation Temple Solomon) may be, a group headed by urban planner Joshua Wolfe and architect Norman Spatz, is trying to save it because it has both historical and architectural significance.

"Beth Shloime is the oldest intact synagogue in Montreal," Wolfe said, and the only functioning synagogue in the area, which for many years was the heart of Jewish Montreal.

The group, called the Jewish-built heritage committee, would like it declared an historic landmark by government or the Jewish community to recognize it as a monument to the once flourishing Jewish life in the neighborhood, evidence of which has all but disappeared. At the least, a plaque should be erected on the site.

The home itself was built in 1899, and was redone as a synagogue in the early 20s by an architect named Fenster. The Ark, imported from Antwerp, the pews and other interior finishings were cast-offs from the old Shaar Hashomayim which had been constructed in 1886.

The last rabbi was Joshua Herschorn who later became the chief rabbi of Montreal.

Beth Shloime has been surviving on private donations from people interested in keeping it going, said Brick. There is no congregation as such today, and nearly all of the former members are dead, he said.

It's condition is generally good, although it needs a new furnace, outside brickwork, a sprinkler system and other fire safety improvements.

There were a dozen synagogues in the area when Beth Shloime opened. The others have either been demolished or have been converted to theatres, schools or apartments.

In addition to its nostalgic importance to Jews and other interested in the city's history, Beth Shloime's architecture alone makes it worthy of conservation, the group thinks, because it's virtually untouched interior shows how the majority of the world's Jews prayed prior to World War II.

Thus far, the group has not been able to get government assistance to preserve Beth Shloime in perpetuity.

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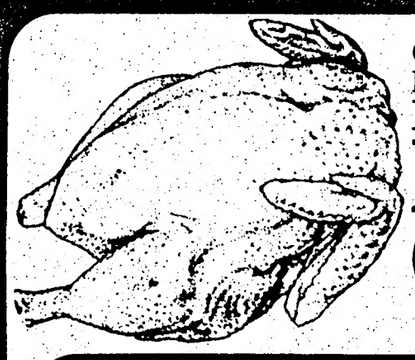

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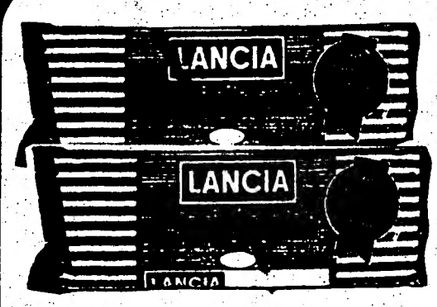

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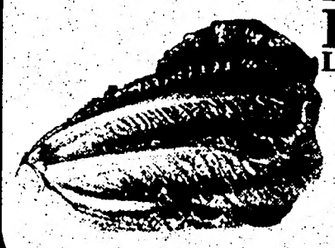

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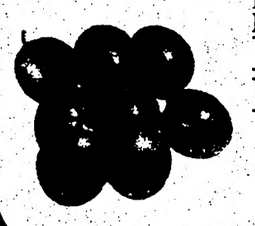

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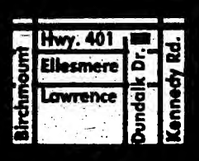

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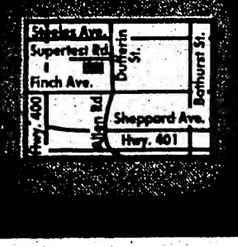

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לשנה טובה תכתבו

ROSH HASHANAH 5754

לשנה טובה תכתבו

The Year 5753 in Review

Currents of fear, hope felt around the world

A delicate balance between fear and hope was struck all over the world in 5753. Israelis felt again the effects of terrorism as attacks against soldiers and civilians increased, eventually leading to the heaviest fighting since 1982 as Israeli troops launched Operation Accountability against Hezbollah guerrillas in southern Lebanon. The acquittal of John Demjanjuk made many fear that crimes committed during World War II would forever go unpunished. And the inch-by-inch progress of the Mideast peace process, which had offered little hope of a breakthrough, was dramatically rejuvenated by the announcement of Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

The currents of fear and hope also met in Europe. Age-old hatreds exploded in Bosnia and "ethnic cleansing" entered our vocabulary as a synonym for genocide. German skinheads continued to wage their personal war against Turkish refugee claimants, beating and burning those seeking sanctuary. The thousands who marched in protest did so to show the world that their Germany did not condone intolerance and hatred.

The neo-Nazi movement attracted attention on this continent, too, raising fears with its apparent growth and acceptance. Canadians in British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec fought hard against the encroachment of groups like the Heritage Front, the Ku Klux Klan and Tom Metzger's White Aryan Resistance, while the less visible prejudices of American adults were revealed through two national surveys.

Another area that seemed to offer hope and dismay in equal doses was that of North American politics. Americans elected a new leader, casting their ballots for Bill Clinton in the hopes of a national health plan and deficit control. Meanwhile, Jews across Canada strongly supported the Charlottetown Accord, with the Canadian Jewish Congress for the first time taking a political stand and aligning itself firmly with the "Yes" side. The national referendum not only left the country fragmented, but signaled to our leaders a deep distrust of the political system.

Following a hush-hush wave of aliyah from Yemen, Ora Faiz, 16, waits with her daughter Mazel at the Rehovot Absorption Centre.

OCTOBER (Hul/Tishrei)

• An **El Al** cargo plane crashes into two apartment buildings in Amsterdam, leaving 43 dead and 16 wounded. Airline officials say the plane lost two of its engines and was returning to Amsterdam's Schipol Airport when it slammed into the nine-storey buildings. It is the first fatal crash in the airline's history.

• An American report claims that **Dr. Joseph Mengele**, the notorious Angel of Death, was inadvertently released by U.S. army officials in 1945 after being held twice in German prisoner-of-war camps. The report, by the U.S. Justice Department, says Mengele lived in hiding in Germany before making his way to South America in 1949.

• **The Valley of the Destroyed Communities** is inaugurated in Jerusalem as part of the Yad Vashem. The exhibit commemorates the more than 5,000 Jewish communities wiped out by the Nazis, although Danish Jews object to the inclusion of Copenhagen, citing Denmark's strong record in protecting Jews during World War II.

• The federal court orders a phone line operated by the neo-Nazi **Heritage Front** in Toronto to restrict its messages following complaints that they promote hatred towards natives.

NOVEMBER (Chesvan/Kislev)

• Holocaust denier **David Irving** lectures in Victoria, B.C., defying an order barring him from entering Canada. Irving is subsequently ordered back to England after unsuccessfully trying to enter the U.S.

• **Lemrick Nelson Jr.**, 17, is acquitted in the August 1991 murder of chassidic scholar Yankel Rosenbaum in Crown Heights, N.Y. Rosenbaum was stabbed to death during three days of rioting between the black and chassidic communities after a black child was accidentally run over by a car in the Lubavitcher Rebbe's entourage.

Eight months after the acquittal, a report prepared by the State Justice Department slams New York City **Mayor David Dinkins** and **Police Commissioner Bill Lynch** for not acting sooner to contain the rioting, described as "imbued with racial prejudice, anti-Semitism and racial intolerance."

• Tel Aviv mayor **Shlomo Lahat**, 65, announces he will not be seeking re-election after 19 years in office. The reason for his retirement? "Public officials should know when it is time to go home."

• Democratic candidate **Bill Clinton** is elected 42nd president of the United States, defeating incumbent George Bush by a comfortable margin of 13 states. It is believed the new president will soften U.S.-Israeli relations and reinvogorate the Mideast peace talks.

• **Israel** attends the second round of discussions dealing with **Middle East refugees** in Ottawa. While little consensus is reached in the multilateral talks, which deal in part with the 2.67 million U.N.-registered Palestinian refugees, participants agree to keep talking.

DECEMBER (Kislev/Tevet)

• Convicted Palestinian terrorist **Mohammed Issa Mohammed**, 49, clears the first hurdle towards obtaining refugee status in Canada. An immigration panel rules that Mohammed, who took part in a 1968 airplane attack that killed one Israeli, may face persecution if he is returned to Lebanon. He has been living in Canada since 1987.

• Talk show host **Dini Petty** apologizes for using the word "Hymie" during a broadcast of her eponymous television show. "It's a word that meant 'cheap' where I grew up," Petty said. "It had no religious connotation whatsoever."

• **Canadian Haddasah-WIZO** celebrates 75 years.

• Convicted war criminal **Jacob Luitjens**, 73, is deported to Holland from Canada. He was sentenced in 1948 in absentia to life in prison for aiding the enemy.

• More than 300,000 Germans hold street vigils to protest a spate of attacks on foreigners by right-wing gangs. The German government pledges greater help in stopping the attacks, directed mainly against Turkish refugee claimants although one German man was burned to death by skinheads who thought he was a Jew.

• Nearly one-fifth of American adults hold anti-Semitic views, according to a poll conducted by the Anti-Defamation League. Almost 40 million Americans reveal their belief in a wide range of Jewish stereotypes, responding positively to such statements as "Jews stick together more than other Americans" and "Jews have too much power in the U.S. today."

• North York **Mel Lastman** is kicked in the shins during a riot between Greek and Slavic Macedonians during a flag-raising ceremony for the newly-independent Macedonia.

• Windsor resident **Radislav Grujicic**, 81, becomes the fourth person to be charged under Canada's war crimes legislation. The former Yugoslav police officer was wanted in connection with the deaths of 10 Communists.

• Israel expels 415 Muslim fundamentalists in retaliation for the killing of three Israeli soldiers. The members of the **Hamas** and **Islamic Jihad** movements are ordered into Israel's self-declared security zone in southern Lebanon.

[Cont'd. on page 2]

לשנה טובה תכתבו

The Year 5753 in Review

[Cont'd. from page 1]

JANUARY (TEVET/SHEVAT)

• Seven Montreal-area synagogues are desecrated in an ominous New Year's greeting. The Laval Jewish Community Centre and two private homes are similarly painted with swastikas three weeks later. No suspects are found.

• Israeli journalist **Motti Golan** releases his controversial book *With Friends Like You: What Israelis Really Think About American Jews*. In it, Golan criticizes North American Jews, saying they refuse to do more than contribute financially to the State of Israel.

• American neo-Nazi leader **Tom Metzger**, barred from entering the country, fails to appear in Vancouver for a speaking engagement. More than 100 anti-racists turn up anyway to protest his appearance.

• Composer **Srul Irving Glick** is wounded by a gunshot outside Toronto's Beth Tikvah synagogue. Police later rule out racial motivation in the crime.

• Publisher **Mel Hurtig** launches the National Party of Canada. The party's platform includes abolishing the Goods and Services Tax, quashing the North American Free Trade Agreement, and a united Canada.

• **The Beit Hashoah — Museum of Tolerance** — opens at the **Simon Wiesenthal Center** in Los Angeles. The 165,000-sq.ft. museum focuses on genocide and the history of racism and prejudice in North America.

• Ukrainian president **Leonid Kravchuk** opens the Ukrainian Embassy in Tel Aviv, inaugurating full diplomatic ties between the two countries.

FEBRUARY (SHEVAT/ADAR)

• In response to the outrage generated by his appointment, left-wing scholar **Yeshayahu Leibowitz** declines the prestigious Israel Prize. The 90-year-old philosopher has been condemned by his countrymen, amongst them Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, for calling Israel a fascist state in its treatment of Palestinians.

• Author and gadfly **Mordechai Richler** raises hackles again, this time by counselling young Jews to leave Quebec for good.

• Filmmaker **Steven Speilberg**'s plans to shoot the movie *Schindler's List* at Auschwitz meet with resistance from the World Jewish Congress. Full approval is given when Speilberg promises not to mar the dignity of the site. In an unreel-ated story, Montreal filmmaker **Joyce Borenstein** is nominated for an Academy Award for her short film *Colors of My Father: A Portrait of Sam Borenstein*.

• Three families of Messianic Jews are ordered to leave Israel, having failed to qualify for citizenship under the Law of Return because of their belief in Jesus and the New Testament.

• **Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau** of Tel Aviv is elected Chief Ashkenazi Rabbi of Israel, while **Rabbi Eliahu Bakshi-Doron** becomes Chief Sephardi Rabbi. Both rabbis will serve for 10 years.

• **El Al**, Israel's national airline, is ordered by a labor court to provide free tickets to partners of homosexual employees. The ruling is considered precedent-setting in cases of same-sex benefits.

• **Rabbi Adolf Shayevitch** is elected Chief Rabbi of Russia, the first in that country. The 56-year-old rabbi was trained in Budapest and served as Chief Rabbi of the Soviet Union and of Moscow's Choral Synagogue.

Vancouver police grapple with angry demonstrators during an anti-racism rally sparked by rumors of a visit by neo-Nazi leader Tom Metzger.

MARCH (ADAR/NISSAN)

• A Palestinian youth fatally stabs two Israelis and wounds seven others in Tel Aviv. Police say the 18-year-old Gaza Strip resident was acting independently, frustrated by his inability to find work. Two weeks later a 22-year-old Arab shouting "Allahu akbar!" (God is Great!) bursts into a Jerusalem high school yard, stabbing five teens and the principal. The attacker had served a two-year prison term for throwing Molotov cocktails.

• A Paraguayan police report reveals that Nazi war criminal **Martin Bormann** died of stomach cancer in Paraguay in 1959. The report challenges the widespread belief that Bormann, one of Hitler's top aides, committed suicide in Berlin in 1945.

• Montreal native **Jason Friedberg** is killed by terrorists while returning to his army base near Tel Aviv. The 24-year-old yeshiva student was two weeks away from completing his army service. Friedberg is buried with full military honors on Jerusalem's Mount Herzl.

• North York trustee **Stephnie Payne** apologizes for anti-Semitic remarks she made while voicing her opposition to staging the musical *Show Boat* at the North York Performing Arts Centre.

APRIL (NISSAN/IYAR)

• Charismatic politician **Benjamin Netanyahu** emerges as the leader of the Likud Party after an election campaign marked by scandal. In an incident referred to as 'Bibigate', Netanyahu ('Bibi') accused opponent **David Levy** of blackmailing him over an extramarital affair. Netanyahu had earlier confessed to the affair on national television.

• Military hero and peripatetic politican **Ezer Weizman** is elected Israel's seventh president, succeeding **Chaim Herzog**.

• Homosexual commitment ceremonies are approved by the **Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association**. "Jewish holiness may be found in relationships between gays and lesbians, just as it can be found between heterosexual couples," says Rabbi Robert Gluck, the association's executive director.

• Israeli Foreign Minister **Shimon Peres** visits Canada, speaking in Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto. During his whirlwind visit, Peres gives his approval to the Canada-Israel Industrial Research and Development Program, a multi-million dollar joint venture in hi-tech research.

• Eastern Jerusalem resident **Faisal Husseini** becomes the new head of the Palestinian delegation to the Mideast peace talks. Israel had previously opposed the move, seeing Husseini's appointment as an acknowledgement that Jerusalem is negotiable.

• University of Toronto professor **Robert O'Driscoll** publishes a book claiming the existence of an international Jewish conspiracy. U of T officials dissociate themselves from O'Driscoll, condemning *The New World Order and The Throne of the Anti-Christ* as "a cheap and scurillous anti-Semitic work."

• **The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum** opens in Washington, D.C., to great acclaim. While designed to educate the American public about the Holocaust, the 265,000-sq. ft., $168-million (U.S.) museum may upset some visitors, says director **Shaike Weinberg**. "It should be disturbing. The Holocaust was a rather disturbing event."

• Jews and non-Jews throughout the world commemorate the **50th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising**, which began April 19, 1943 when 500 poorly armed Jews fought back against the German army. The revolt, the first major resistance mounted in Nazi-occupied territory, is remembered in Canada through a series of memorial services and lectures.

In Warsaw, a 165-member delegation led by Canadian Jewish Congress president **Irving Abella** attends commemoration ceremonies in Rapaport Square. The Canadian group is the second largest present.

• **Pope John Paul II** orders 14 Carmelite nuns to leave their convent at Auschwitz, another development in more than nine years of protests by Jewish leaders against the nuns' presence. The convent building was used to store the Zyklon B pellets used in the Auschwitz gas chambers during the Holocaust. The nuns have until June to move into a nearby convent complex.

• **Israel** celebrates its 45th birthday.

• A survey reveals that 22 percent of American adults believe it is possible that the Holocaust never happened. The survey, conducted by the American Jewish Committee, finds that an additional 12 percent "aren't sure." The numbers are the same for college graduates and high school dropouts alike.

• **Martin Bormann, Jr.** meets with children of Holocaust survivors in Israel. The four-day meeting, involving nine children of Nazi war criminals and an equal number of second generation participants, is meant to help heal the wounds of the past.

MAY (IYAR/SIVAN)

• Economist **Richard Levin** becomes Yale University's first Jewish president, a move that some believe may finally eradicate the institution's historic reputation of anti-Semitism. Three other Ivy League schools — Columbia, Dartmouth and Princeton — have Jewish presidents.

• The first annual Jewish Film Festival takes place in Toronto, showcasing 15 features and four shorts with Jewish themes. More than 8,000 people show up for the five-day festival, according to co-producer **Helen Zukerman**.

• Five **Turks** die in a firebomb attack in the German city of Solingen, one week after the German parliament passed laws making it more difficult for political refugees to seek asylum in that country. The laws were supposed to help ease tensions between German skinheads and foreigners.

• After 27 years on the job, **Teddy Kollek** announces he will run for his seventh, record-breaking term as mayor of Jerusalem. The 82-year-old Labor politician reversed his earlier intention to retire, saying pressure from Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was behind his decision to run again.

• **KPMG Peat Marwick**, the world's largest accounting firm, is accused of purposely omitting Israel from its worldwide directory in order to avoid offending Arab clients. The firm denies the charges laid by the Simon Wiesenthal Center, and commits to establishing formal representation in Israel by 1995.

• Four Israeli soldiers die and three are seriously wounded after two paratrooper squadrons mistake each other for Arab infiltrators and open fire in southern Lebanon. The men were part of the same unit and knew each other well.

[Cont'd. on page 5]

MILESTONES

Noah Bee, 76, died in Bethesda, Md., of cancer Oct. 4. Bee was a longtime JTA cartoonist and designer of the ubiquitous JNF Blue Box and Israel's first currency in 1948.

Journalist **Alvin Rosenfeld** subcumbed Oct. 10 to cancer in Washington, D.C. He was 73. The former NBC bureau chief in Jerusalem, Rosenfeld covered all the Israeli wars from 1948 to his retirement.

Hebrew University president **Yoram Ben Porath**, 55, was killed along with his wife and 5-year-old son in a car accident near Eilat, Oct. 25. He was succeeded by university rector **Prof. Hanoch Gutfreund**.

Yiddish journalist **Jacob Rabinovitch** died in Montreal Nov. 5. He was 83. Born in Telz, Lithuania, Rabinovitch was the scion of a famous rabbinical family. He wrote for many years for the New York-based Yiddish weekly *Algemeiner Journal*.

Philanthropist **Joseph Tanenbaum** died Nov. 15 in Toronto, two months after his wife of 65 years, **Faye**. He was 87. Born in Lublin, Tanenbaum came to Toronto with his family at 6. At 12 his father died and he dropped out of school to run the family scrapyard, which he later built into Runnymede Steel. Tanenbaum supported more than 300 charities around the world, including numerous Jewish organizations.

Businessman **Morris Lax**, 71, died following a botched robbery at his Hamilton scrapyard Dec. 19. Police say Lax discovered the thieves during an early morning visit to his office. He was to have been honored by Yeshivat Hesder Shiloh in Israel that week.

Dr. Albert Sabin, developer of the oral polio vaccine, died March 3 in Washington, D.C. First available in 1962, Sabin's vaccine was swallowed while **Dr. Jonas Salk**'s was injected.

Selma Plaut died March 4 at 102. The energetic mother of two rabbis was a welcome face at the University of Toronto, from which she received an honorary degree two years ago.

Former Manitoba Chief Justice **Samuel Freedman**, 84, died March 6 in Winnipeg. Inducted into the Order of Canada, Freedman became the first Jewish Chief Justice in Canada in 1971.

Orthodox scholar **Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik**, 90, died April 8 in Boston. Considered the spiritual mentor of modern Orthodoxy, Rabbi Soloveitchik ordained over 2,000 rabbis while professor of Talmud at Yeshiva University's Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary.

Rabbi Sheldon Steinberg died in Toronto May 13 at age 59. Rabbi Steinberg was director of chaplaincy services at Toronto's Jewish Family & Child Services and Mount Sinai Hospital. The announcement was made during a memorial service for his teacher, **Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik** (see above).

Rabbi Nachman Shemen, founder of the Kashruth Council (COR) dies at 81 in Toronto July 8. From its inception in 1950 until 1992, Rabbi Shemen ran COR, which supervises and certifies kosher products and services in Toronto.

Yiddish poet **Peretz Miransky** died in Toronto after a long illness July 10. He was 85. Miransky was one of two surviving members of the Young Vilna Poets, a group of seven Yiddish writers based in the Polish city during World War II.

American **Allison Atlas**, 24, dies in a Maryland hospital August 31. Jews around the world went to bone marrow registeries in 1990 as part of a drive to secure a donor for Atlas, who suffered from myelodysplastic syndrome, a rare blood disorder. While no match was found for Atlas, the mass screenings have since helped 200 others.

לשנה טובה תכתבו

For better or worse life goes on

By LEILA SPEISMAN

This has not been a great year. From the distant to the close, some of the chief underpinnings of my life, some of those people I counted on as bulwarks were ripped away.

Our pediatrician, Dr. Robert Disenhouse, died, the doctor who suffered and rejoiced with us literally in sickness and in health, luckily most recently in health. It was to him we turned with questions about our children, and to whom our children looked to keep them well.

He was the one who during that terrible year one of our children was in the hospital, called us every single week, whether or not there was anything particular to say.

He never considered himself too important to credit G-d, not exclusively modern technology and scientific advances, for his successes.

When we first married, I began to buy my meat from a brand-new butcher also just starting out, Albert Edery. I followed him to different stores, and was thrilled when he finally opened a shop a few blocks from where I lived. He was always willing to put himself out for me, to keep his store open that precious extra few minutes until I got home from work, to find me the special kind of roast beef I liked.

Now it might take a housewife to appreciate that.

See, my family for three generations has been one of the few in the Jewish world who doesn't eat brisket. We have always used top rib roast. Albert not only knew what top rib roast was, he got it for me when some other butchers tried to tell me that prime rib was the same thing. Sounds trivial, hah?

Provided spiritual advice

Well, it's not. It's not at all trivial when someone you could depend on to make life move a little smoother, someone to whom you were a bit special, suddenly isn't there anymore.

Worst of all, we — and by we I mean the whole Toronto community — lost Rabbi Sheldon Steinberg. He was the chaplain of Mt. Sinai Hospital and of Jewish Family & Child Service. But to my family he was more.

He was the brother my husband and I never had. He was the one we turned to in our darkest moments and in our times of greatest joy. He was the one who gave us spiritual advice and warmth. From him we learned — or can only hope we learned — what kind of a Jew and of a person we could hope to be.

A few weeks ago, we learned of the passing of Allison Atlas. I have covered her story for over three years. You might remember — she was the pretty young American girl whose search for a bone marrow donor of Ashkenazi background was carried from her hometown in the United States to Canada, Europe and Israel.

She went on television and did public appearances to publicize her case, and normally cynical reporters wrote moving articles about the need for Jews to have their blood tested, so that they might, just possibly, help Allison, or, if not her, someone like her.

Many did come out to blood screening clinics. Several hundred people were helped. Other names joined her in our consciousness: Elizabeth Lue, who also died, Gordon Chang, who miraculously did not, Jay Feinberg, for whom time is getting extraordinarily precious, Toronto's "Cathy." And then Allison died.

Determined to eat healthier

And it is awfully hard to think that maybe there is someone out there, a fellow Jew, who because they couldn't miss a television show, or just had to buy a new pair of shoes, or chose to play Nintendo, could have saved her life and didn't.

My family will go on. My husband and I are determined this year to exercise more, to eat more nutritiously, to finally take up that stress-reduction program. We even plan to spend time together, just the two of us.

My oldest daughter is going into her last year of high school, as my twins enter their first. It has been some time since we could convince them that we are actually only 28 years old, or that we know all the answers. But they know, I hope, that we never give up searching.

Now, somehow, we have to incorporate the ideals of faith in G-d, integrity, courage, loving-kindness, that those who have left us exemplified. And to do that without those we depended upon to teach us.

I like to think that there is a huge room up in heaven, filled with comfortable chairs, lined with books, and decorated with flowers. On end tables there are platters with luscious fruits, decadent (or should I say heavenly) cakes and tarts, a dynamite (O.K., O.K., ambrosial) punch.

And the room will be filled with all those wonderful people that G-d in His infinite albeit often inscrutable, wisdom has decided He needs closest to Him. And that that they are looking down on their friends, their family, their admirers, and wishing us all a good year, a happy year, a year filled with strength.

Not just for my family, but for all of us.

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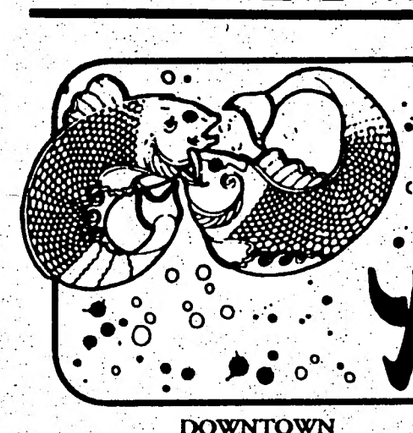

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Naomi Guttman
Reasons for Winter

Time to catch up on reading

By LEILA SPEISMAN

This year we have the sometimes difficult situation where Rosh Hashanah and the first and last days of Sukkot fall on Thursday and Friday, thus creating in essence a three-day holiday.

Instead of seeing this as a hurdle to overcome, take the opportunity to read some of the first-rate books that have recently appeared.

Ottawa writer Sharon Drache has more than redeemed herself from her very disappointing novel *Ritual Slaughter*, with her collection of short shories *The Golden Ghetto* (Beach Home Publishers, 1993). Her portraits of upwardly mobile middle-class Jews are alternately bitingly satirical, hysterically funny and generally right on.

Her stories about the compulsive shopper, the dissatisfied housewife, the sex-obsessed dentist, the tourist reaching for that one exciting fling are sharp and embarassingly familiar.

Especially effective is the tragic and poignant The Shtimmer, about a lonely man cruelly maimed and orphaned in the Holocaust, thinking about the only woman who has been kind to him.

A totally different style of fiction is the gripping *Brothers*, by Michael Bar-Zohar (Fawcett Columbine, 1993).

Two brothers, whose mother, a Jewish poetess, is murdered in a Stalinist purge, are separated, one to be brought up in America, one in an orphanage in the Soviet Union.

Their reunion leads not to a fairy tale familial love, but to a fierce hatred that tortures not only them but those they love. The conclusion is eminently satisfying.

This is a must read novel.

Naomi Guttman's *Reasons for Winter* (Brock Books, 1991) won the 1992 QSPELL (Quebec Society for the Promotion of English-Language Literature) A.M. Klein Prize for Poetry.

A worthy tribute to this first book of poems by a writer one looks forward to seeing again.

Her poems are short, pithy and make skillful use of simple language to express vivid pictures. "Back from the funeral/my parents work the garden./They stake peas, squatting, they/rake weeds, speak/to savage sighs/of the man, the friend — why/and how it is hardly believable."

The poems deal with relationships, aging, changes, love, death. They achieve that rare combination of insight and enjoyment.

Another work of fiction well worth the time to read it, as well as the suspension of expectations it entails, is *Running Fiercely Toward a High Thin Sound*, by Judith Katz (Firebrand Books, 1992).

Nadine, a talented, tormented soul, descends into chaos and insipient madness, as she tries to come to terms with her neurotic and abusive mother, who is desperately trying to raise her own social station, as well as her own lesbianism. The story is told from the point of view of several characters in the story, creating a sense of realism in confusion.

****

Holocaust memoirs abound. I have found few as compelling as *Death by Design*, by Ruth Bindefeld Neray (1992).

Ruth is a young woman whose family is trying to lead a bourgeois life in France at the beginning of World War II. She is captured by the Germans and sent to Auschwitz.

The book is dedicated "To life," and her story illustrates her determination to survive the humiliations, ill-treatment and selections in the camp.

We see the natural, exhuberant girl deliberately drawing into herself, until at liberation she finds it hard to find herself again, hard to join ordinary, civilized life around her.

Perhaps her ultimate triumph over her ordeal is her trying to stop a mob of concentration camp survivors from lynching some Germans. "Enough killing, enough hatred, enough death...We cannot allow ourselves to go down to their level of savagery...Is that all we had learned? vengeance?"

****

Conservative Judaism is trying to pry itself from its position which is often defined half disparagingly as "not Orthodox, not Reform." Two books have recently appeared which help confirm it as an independent entity.

The first is a reprint of *Aspects of Rabbinic Theology*, by the intellectual godfather of American Conservative Judaism Solomon Schechter (Jewish Lights, 1993). Those looking for the theological underpinnings of the movement which has become the largest group of Jews in North America, will find this a fascinating discussion of God, Torah and Jewish principles.

Neil Gillman, an associate professor of Jewish Philosophy at the Jewish Theological Seminary, and a leading spokesperson for Conservative Judaism, has produced what will certainly be a classic of its kind.

Conservative Judaism; the new century (Behrman House, 1993) is a comprehensive, honest, and engrossing look at the origins, practices, current state and potential of this religious movement, by someone who obviously has a love for it.

The pictures are especially good , both historically and from the literary point of view.

There is a particular fascination with extremes, especially in religious terms. Two recent books deal well with what is often called the "ultra-Orthodox."

Samuel Heilman managed to gain the confidence of the world of the far right to write an indepth sociological study *Defenders of the Faith; inside Ultra-Orthodox Jewry* (Schocken Books, 1992).

The book deals with their educational system, lifestyle, attitudes toward other Jews, women, sex, and, if I may be forgiven the word, weltaungshaung, world view. Personal interviews give reality and empathy to the adherents.

Be sure to see Yale Strom's *The Hasidim of Brooklyn* (Jacob Aronson, 1993). This is a fascinating pictorial essay showing the stores, schools, shuls and streetscenes of what to many is an unknown or exotic part of the Jewish world.

****

While most of us know of the famous French Jewish actress Sarah Bernhardt, there was another equally (or more so) famous and talented actress, Rachel Felix, known on the stage as Rachel. *Tragic Muse; Rachel of the Comedie-Francaise* by Rachel M. Brownstein (Knopf, 1993) describes eloquently and sympathetically the short but glittering life and career of a gifted tragic actress, most noted for her portrayal of Racine and Corneille heroines.

Brownstein analyzes her performances and the contemporary criticism of them, tempered, as they so often are in the world of the arts, by personal opinions of her not exactly conservative lifestyle.

Especially interesting is the discussion of her effect on other actresses and on the theatre world of her time.

לשנה טובה תכתבו

An old woman waves goodbye to her daughter and grandchildren before she and 200 other Jews are evacuated from Sarajevo.

The Year 5753 in Review

[Cont'd. from page 2]

JUNE (SIVAN/TAMUZ)

• Accused war criminal **Ivan Polyukhovich** is acquitted by an Australian court. The judge, in his instruction to jury members, urged them to consider that the lapse of 50 years made it difficult for Polyukhovich to defend himself. Polyukhovich was charged with murdering 27 Jewish men, women and children and abetting the murder of 850 more in Ukraine.

• **The Winnipeg Board of Jewish Education** reverses its policy of banning non-Jewish dates from Joseph Wolinsky Collegiate's annual graduation dinner dance. The policy had generated national media coverage and charges of racism.

• Right-wing politican **Istvan Csurka** and four of his associates are expelled from the ruling **Hungarian Democratic Forum** party for their anti-Semitic tirades. Csurka quickly forms his own faction, calling it Hungarian Justice.

• The **1991 census** reveals that 318,000 Canadians declared themselves Jews by religion, as compared to 296,000 in 1981. Despite the apparent increase, Jews by faith still compromise 1.2 percent of the populaton.

• Israeli Prime Minister **Yitzhak Rabin** agrees to allow Palestinians living in east Jerusalem to vote, but not run, in proposed elections for self-government in the territories. Rabin makes the concessions in an interview with the Palestinian daily *Al Quds*.

• The **Israel Defence Force** bans discrimination against gays and lesbians in the army, further liberalizing what was already a tolerant policy towards homosexuals. While the IDF never excluded homosexuals, the new regulations will allow gay soldiers to serve in positions requiring high security clearance and will end psychological examinations for soldiers whose homosexuality is disclosed.

• Superstar **Michael Jackson** hastily reschedules an upcoming Saturday night concert in Tel Aviv after Orthodox community members protest. Rocker **Elton John**, on the other hand, can't leave the country fast enough after his car is mobbed by fans outside a Jerusalem hotel. John later returns to perform at a concert after an appeal by the British ambassador to Israel.

• Convicted spy **Jonathon Pollard** is transferred from the maximum security Marion Prison in Illinois to a medium security jail in North Carolina. The move is seen by some as a sign that Pollard's life sentence for passing information to Israel will be commuted.

• Saint John buisnesswoman **Erminie Joy Cohen** is appointed to the Senate by former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney. Cohen, 67, will join fellow Jewish senators **Jerry Grafstein, Nathan Nurgitz, Mira Spivak, Leo Kolber** and **Jack Marshall**.

July (TAMUZ/AV)

• Two Israeli women and two Palestinian terrorists die after the attempted hijack of a Jerusalem city bus. One of the women killed was a motorist forced by the fleeing terrorists to run a roadblock. A third terrorist is hospitalized.

[Cont'd. on page 6]

Several hundred anti-fascists march at Dachau to protest the rising racism against foreigners and asylum seekers in Germany.

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The remains of 22 passengers who died in 1961 when their ship sank during a storm off the Straits of Gibraltar are buried during a state funeral in Israel. The Egoz was carrying 43 Moroccan Jewish immigrants and one Mossad agent, all of whom drowned. The recovered bodies had been secretly interned in a Moroccan Jewish cemetery.

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The Year 5753 in Review

• Charges of nepotism and abuse of power are leveled at **Multiculturalism Minister Gerry Weiner** after his son, **Mark**, wins a Tory nomination in Quebec. The sole Jewish cabinet minister, Weiner allegedly pursuaded the heads of several ethnic groups to back his son's nomination.

• Lebanese immigrant **Michel Safadi**, 29, is found guilty of promoting hatred against Jews by a Prince Edward Island court. Safadi, a former member of the Lebanese National Army, was also found guilty of weapons charges during the week-long trial.

• Convicted war criminal **John Demjanjuk** is acquitted by the Israeli Supreme Court. After overturning his conviction as Treblinka guard Ivan the Terrible, the court declines to further prosecute Demjanjuk for his wartime activities, which included a stint as a Nazi prison guard in Sobibor.

• In retaliation for a spate of attacks that killed seven soldiers in two weeks, **Israel blasts 16 suspected Hezbollah** positions in southern Lebanon in **Operation Accountability**. The seven-day clash is the worst fighting in the area since the 1982 Lebanon incursion, with Israeli artillery and aerial bombing killing 130. Guerilla Katyusha rockets kill two Israeli civilians and one soldier. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher brokers a ceasefire.

• The **14th Maccabiah Games** take place in Israel. Canadian athletes post their best showing ever, scooping up 26 gold and 59 bronze and silver medals.

• The $100-million **Jerusalem City Hall** is dedicated. Designed by Toronto architect **Jack Diamond**, the 83,000-sq. m complex includes an open plaza which holds 15,000. The complex will bring together 2,000 city workers currently scattered over the city.

AUGUST (Av/Elul)

• Israeli **Attorney General Yosef Harish** indicts Shas party leader and Interior Minister **Aryeh Deri** on four major counts of bribery, fraud and breach of public trust. Meanwhile, fellow Shas party member and Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs **Raphael Pinhasi** has his parliamentary immunity upheld by a narrow vote in the Knesset. Pinhase is facing fraud charge connected to his position as party treasurer.

• Nine Israeli soldiers die during a single day of **Hezbollah** attacks in southern Lebanon, just weeks after Operation Accountability ends in ceasefire. In retaliation for the bombing attacks, Hezbollah targets in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley are strafed by the Israeli air force. Two guerillas die.

• Former **Chief Rabbi of Hungary Georges Landesman** arrives in Canada after being stripped of his title by the Hungarian Jewish community. Rabbi Landesman had caused a sensation by telling a reporter in February that Hungarian culture would "be back to feudalism" if not for Jewish contributions. He later declared the statement was taken out of context.

• The Ontario Court of Appeal dismisses charges laid against teacher **Paul Moyer** for taking pictures of a teenage skinhead urinating in a Jewish cemetery. In announcing its decision, the court said that while the acts committed were "vicious and repugnant," they did not offer an offence to the corpses, the Criminal Code section invoked by the prosecution.

• Almost 26 years after construction began, the new **Tel Aviv bus terminal** opens. The seven-storey, $175-million (U.S.) air conditioned terminal contains 1,500 shops, 11 cinemas, 50 public toilets, and dozens of restaurants and banks. More than 150,000 travellers are expected to pass through the station each day.

Material for The Year In Review was researched, compiled and written by Amy Sattin, a graduate student in journalism at Ryerson Polytechnical University and intern copy editor at The CJN.

לשנה טובה תכתבו

IGTO director remains vigilant in promoting travel to Israel

By ARYEH KATZAV

On a recent Monday morning I was having a not-so-secret rendezvous with a woman who loves Israel as much as I do. Even more, for it is the country of her birth and she is only on loan to Canada for four years.

After we had ordered our typical bagel and coffee from the United Bakers waitress, this dynamo who is the director of the Israel Government Tourist Office in Canada couldn't wait to tell me about all the wonderful things that were happening.

For those of you who may not know Ruth Ben-Tzur, she is the kind of person who you only have to ask one question and she will give you the answers to the next 20 unspoken questions. Which makes my life easy whenever I interview her.

On this particular morning. Ben-Tzur was in fine form and had every right to be. Visitors have been flocking to Israel in record numbers; the country set a record in 1992 for conventions (146 compared to 96 in 1991, the previous record-setting year); and she had recently conducted, in conjunction with Al Al Israel Airlines, a series of seminars across Canada that had attracted more than 600 clergy.

The seminars, said Ben-Tzur, were in response to "the increasing demand by religious leaders who are interested in bringing their congregants to the Holy Land for unique spiritual experience."

She said she is very happy with the upsurge in visitors to Israel, but "we still have to work very hard with the individual travel agents to get them to promote Israel as a tourist destination, and this we are doing on an ongoing basis."

Unfortunately, says Ben-Tzur, one of the biggest problems is that in many agencies, staff is not familiar with Israel. "They know muh more about the Caribbean or Europe, for instance, so when a potential customer comes in wanting to know about a great place for a vacation, they steer them to destinations to which they are familiar. That is a very hard situation to overcome. We have to educate them and that takes

Ruth Ben-Tzur

a lot of time and hard work."

Because pilgrimages are a big market for Israel and a large Roman Catholic community exists in Quebec, the IGTO and El Al have teamed up to run a publicity campaign from October through December in Montreal and Quebec City, on radio and super billboards which Ben-Tzur believes will attract a lot of people.

"We are working very hard with the travel agents to take pilgrimage to Israel and it has been paying off. We're working with the United Church in Ontario to take students, before they're ordained as ministers, to Israel to see and experience the Holy Land. Our main market is the non-Jewish pilgrimage, then comes the vacationers."

"I don't like Israel to be considered as a destination for an ethnic market so we must approach the large general market and show them just how much Israel has to offer."

As anyone who has ever been to Israel can attest, the country offers something for everyone, no matter what your tastes, and though I may be perjudiced, it is truly one of the great destinations in the world, if not the greatest.

Because of the heightened interest in Israel, there are a number of new hotels being built, including three in Eilat and the introduction of the Holiday Inn chain in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. There are also new hotels at the Dead Sea and the Sea of Gelilee.

Ben-Tzur says the ministry of tourism is working hard around the Sea of Galilee to develop tourism. "We are calling it country tourism where vacationers can rent a cottage or rooms at a moshav or kibbutz and get a feeling of life in those places. It's quite inexpensive and it's a unique experience. Not everyone can afford a five-star hotel and the trend is toward family travel to Israel, so we have to offer these people a choice of accommodations.

"We are also aiming our marketing at young people who come to Israel with their knapsacks and don't have a lot of money. The key is that they come and enjoy, because they are the tourists of tomorrow and they'll be back."

Another key area being promoted, says Ben-Tzur, is the Dead Sea, mainly for its curative powers. "This has long been a haven for psoriasis sufferers who have found amazing results from the treatments there. In fact, last year I sent 92 dermatologists there and they were amazed at what they saw. They have now returned and are writing articles of their findings for medical journals. It's very exciting."

But the real excitement takes place at three major events coming up in the 90s.

The first in 1996 when Jerusalem celebrates its 3,000th anniversary. "The celebration and festivities are already being planned and we expect huge numbers of Jews and non-Jews alike," says Ben-Tzur.

This will be followed two years later, in 1998, by the 50th anniversary of the State of Israel, which promises to be a highly emotional and fun-filled year.

And finally, to end the 20th century, the year 2000 marks 2,000 years of Christianity and the festivities planned will be aired via satellite all over the world.

"So there are many exciting things happening that will be wonderful for Israel and the people that visit," says a smiling Ben-Tzur. "I invite everyone to come."

Israel's economy grew in 5753

In a year when many of the world's national economies were affected by recession, Israel was a rare exception.

Israel's Gross Domestic Product grew by 6.6 percent, the third successive year of growth. Exports surged by 14.4 percent, and inflation dropped to single digits for the first time in 20 years.

U.S. approval of $10 billion in loan guarantees helped Israel absorb the 80,000 immigrants who arrived last year, and the 200,000 who arrived the year before.

Unemployment, which peaked at 11.2 percent in June, has been dropping steadily since. The ministry of labor and social affairs created 3,300 jobs with the Jewish National Fund and 200 with the Antiquities Authority, while cabinet approval of a Free Export Processing Zone will create 15,000 jobs in addition to attracting foreign investment. — JTA

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Israeli soldiers grieve at the funeral of their commanding officer, killed by Hezbollah guerrillas in southern Lebanon along with eight other soldiers in two separate same-day attacks.

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לשנה טובה תכתבו

Jewish history chronicled

By SHELDON KIRSHNER

Once in a while, a book of extraordinary workmanship, a triumph of the bookmaking art, comes along to dazzle readers.

A Historical Atlas of the Jewish People (Alfred Knopf, $65) is such a volume.

Chronicling the course of Jewish history from the Patriarchs to the present through the medium of well-chosen words, 581 illustrations and 200 maps, this is a comprehensive as well as a sumptuous work.

It is edited by Eli Barnavi, director of Tel Aviv University's department of history and associate professor at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales in Paris.

But this is not a one-man show. Some of the world's leading scholars have contributed — Sir Isaiah Berlin, Saul Friedlander, Arthur Hertzberg, Bernard Lewis and Ephraim Urbach, among others.

A Historical Atlas of the Jewish People covers an awful lot of ground — the Exodus, the conquest of Canaan, the monarchies of Saul, David and Solomon, the fall of Jerusalem, the emergence of the Diaspora, the Roman conquest of Judea, Arab-Jewish contacts, the formation of European Jewry and the Crusades.

Succeeding chapters deal with the Jews of Spain, Italy, the Ottoman Empire, the Russian Empire, Poland, Germany, China, India, the Habsburg Empire, Hungary and the Balkans.

Chapters explore Zionism, Holocaust

Additional chapters touch on such themes as American and Soviet Jewry, Latin American settlement, the era of false messiahs, the emancipation of Western Jewry, the development of anti-Semitism, state anti-Semitism in Eastern Europe and Jews in socialist movements.

Topics like Zionism, the birth of Jewish Palestine, the Holocaust, the state of Israel, the demise of communities in the Arab world, Ethiopian Jewry, Yiddish, modern Hebrew culture, the evolution of kasruth and Jewish-Polish relations are also addressed in some depth.

In keeping with the spirit of this book, entries are succinct but weighty. With a few broad brushstrokes, contributors manage to draw intellectually stimulating and satisfying commentaries of major events which shaped our psyche and our history.

But the uniqueness of *a Historical Atlas of the Jewish People* lies in its approach of setting forth this story graphically.

The maps are clear; the drawings and paintings are lush; the photographs are striking.

In sum, this is a prodigious performance, a book which can be read by teenagers and adults alike.

Keep it in your library, or give it away as a timeless gift.

It will be appreciated.

JEWELRY CACHES DISCOVERED

This silver medallion was discovered beneath the floor of a 7th-century BCE building in the Philistine city fo Ekron (Tel Mique). It show two figures, one of whom is praying to a goddess standing on a lion. This was just one of many pieces of jewelry and silver ingots excavated at Ekron, located near Kibbutz Revadim in the south-central part of Israel. They were found hidden in a jug which was inside another vessel [Photo: Courtesy Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

לשנה טובה תכתבו

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PEACE

לשנה טובה תכתבו

A group of Mountain Jews stand before their homes in Azerbaijan.

Time stands still in tiny village

The clock stopped at the turn of the century in this tiny village 2000 ft. above sea level in the rock-studded Caucasus Mountains. Kuba, 150 miles northwest of the Azerbaijani capital of Baku, is home to the country's Mountain Jews.

Much like the European shtetls in which insular Jewish communities lived before World War I, Kuba has dirt streets with open sewers for gutters. Water is drawn by hand from wells and the houses are built of crude cement blocks, rust-colored bricks, weathered wood, copper and tin. The residents have dark hair and dark brown eyes. Most of the men have the thick fingers of manual laborers and the majority of the women stay inside their homes, peering out when visitors arrive.

The Mountain Jews speak Tat, a dialect that includes words from Turkish and Persian. *Encyclopedia Judaica* traces the village to the year 1734, when a local warlord named Gussein offered the Jews protection from Persian rulers trying to force them to adopt Islam.

A leader of the Mountain Jewish community in Baku, Nahum Ben Rabbi Avraham, said his people trace their history in the Caucasus Mountains back more than 2500 years.

"We are the remnants of the Babylonian Exile," he said. "Over all of these centuries, we didn't adopt local names and didn't change our religion."

The community in Kuba numbers about 5,500, according to Louba Baredani, emissary to Baku from the Jewish Agency for Israel. About 30 people emigrate to Israel each month, but the high birthrate — often 10 children to a family — keeps the population constant.

"I have one son in Israel," said Mazal Agarunov, a stocky woman in her mid-30s with a number of gold teeth and a red babushka. "Another was drafted into the Azerbaijani Army three months ago and is fighting [against the Armenians] in Nagorno Karabakh. My husband and I would like to go to Israel with our other four children, but we are torn."

One functioning synagogue

Kuba has only one functioning synagogue. Eleven others were closed during the Soviet repression of organized religion. All the synagogues were built of rust-colored bricks with ornate tin and copper roofs and spires..

At least a dozen scrolls fill the mahogany ark standing under a gold-leaf Star of David and an Israeli flag. The rough oak pews are highly shellacked and the red concrete aisles are covered with thick, hand-woven red rugs.

Heidi Damsky of Birmingham, Ala., recently visited Kuba as part of a United Jewish Appeal mission. She was invited into the home of one resident.

"She took me to a breakfront," said Damsky. "It was full of her most prized possessions, a collection of cut glass like the glass that my grandmother collected in the United States. I felt that I was in my grandmother's house in a turn-of-the-century shtetl. We were communicating, across the cultural divide, through hand gestures and smiles, woman to woman, Jew to Jew."

ייִדיש ווינקל
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דער מנהג פון גיין אויף קבר אָבות

פון **דר. פרעד וויינבערג**

דער מנהג פון גיין אויף קבר אָבות פאַר די ימים נוראים איז זיכער פאַרבונדן מיטן גערַאַנק, אַז די פאַרשטאַרבענע עלטערן אָדער משפחה-מיטגלידער קענען זיך משתדל זיין אין הימל לטובת די לעבעדיקע. דאָס שטאַמט פון אַן אַלטן גלויבן, אַז די אָבות האָבן זיך פאַרדינט און אָנגע-זאַמלט אַזוי פיל זכות אין זייער אייגענעם לעבן, אַז עס איז ביי זיי איבערגעבליבן דער עודף, כדי צו בענעפיטירן זייערע קינדס-קינדער.

און דער חשק צו ווערן פאַרשריבן אינעם ספר החיים, באַוואוסטזיניק אָדער נישט, איז דער מאָטיוו, וואָס טרייבט יידן אין שול אַריין ראש-השנה און יום-כּיפור אין אַזעלכע גרויסע צאָלן.

די פייערלעכקייט פון חודש אלול, ווען אפילו די פיש אין וואַסער ציטערן, זעט זיך אָן מער אויפן בית-עולם, ווי ערגעץ אַנדערש. באַקאַנט איז דאָס אויסווייניגן זיך, ספעציעל פון די פרויען, און די שטאַרקע קולות, וואָס לאָזן זיך הערן ביי די מצבות פון זייערע משפחות.

עס זיינען פאַראַנען פאַרשיידענע תּפילות פאַר די פאַרשטאַרבענע, און סיפעלן נישט קיין פראָפעסיאָנעלע דאַוונערס, וואָס פאַר אַ מטבע קענען זיי אַוועקלייגן אַ קדיש אָדער אַ „מלא" -- דאָס הייסט אַן „אַל מלא רחמים".

ווי אַלט איז דער מנהג פון גיין אויף קבר אָבות? אין חומש, אין די ביבלישע צייטן, ווערט עס נישט דערמאָנט. אָבער אין דער צייט פון דער משנה, אין צווייטן יאָרהונדערט, אין די תּלמוּ-דישע ספָרים הערט מען דערפון.

נאָך אַן אַלטער מנהג: ביים באַזוך צום קבר דאַרף מען איבערלאָזן אַ שטיינדל אויפן „קאָפּ" פון דער מצבה, אַלס אַ בכבוד'יקע געזעגענונג מיטן נפטר.

דער גאַנצער באַזוך צום בית-עולם מוז אויך זיין מיט גרויס רעספעקט צו די פאַרשטאָרבענע. כּדי זיי נישט צו פאַרשעמען, טאָר מען נישט טראָגן קיין טַלית אָדער תּפילין, אָדער לייענען פון אַ ספר תורה, ווייל די טויטע קענען מער נישט די מצוות אויספאָלגן.

די חסידישע וועלט פון מזרח-אייראָפּע האָט שטאַרק געגלויבט אין גיין אויף קבר אָבות, און ספעציעל האָבן זיי געהייליקט די קברים פון נפטר געוואָרענע רביים. און די חסידישע וועלט האָט אויך געהאַלטן, אַז די ערד פון אַ צַדיק'ס קבר איז צו פאַרגלייכן אין קדושה און הייליקייט ווי ארץ ישראל זעלבסט.

די מתנגדים האָבן אָבער פאַרבאָטן גיין אויף קבר אָבות און האָבן זיך דעם מנהג אַנטקעגנגע-שטעלט.

דער ווילנער גאון האָט געלייגט אין חרם אַריין דעם באַרימטן חסיד ר' לוי יצחק פון באַרדי-טשעוו. ר' לוי האָט געליטן שרעקלעכע רדיפות מצד די מתנגדים, ווייל ער האָט זיינע חסידים גע-פירט ווי אַ סעקטע מיט זייערע אייגענע מנהגים, ווי קבר אָבות, און אויך געפרעדיקט די אַלע מנהגים אין דער עפנטלעכקייט.

דער גרויסער חטא טאָקע פון די חסידים איז געווען, וואָס זיי האָבן געבעטן און געדאַוונט מיט גרויס התלהבות ביים קבר פון אַ צדיק, אַז ער זאָל זיין אַ פאַרמיטלער צווישן רבונו של עולם אין הימל און די לעבעדיקע בני-ישראל אין גלות.

אין היינטיקער מדינת ישראל, אין ל"ג בעומר, גייען פיל יידן קיין מירון אין גליל צום קבר פון ר' שמעון בן יוחאי, דער מחבר פונעם זוהר, און בעטן דאָרט ביי זיין קבר, און פייערן זיין יאָרצייט לזכר זיין העלדישקייט און אַלס אַ מיסטיקער.

זעט איר, אַז אפילו אין מאָדערנע צייטן איז דער מנהג פון גיין אויף קבר אָבות נאָך אויך געפינען אַ וואַרצלט אין יידישן פאָלקס געפיל, סיי אין ישראל און סיי אין די תפוצות.

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לשנה טובה תכתבו

Whether Israel or Diaspora, it's hard to be Herb

By HERB KEINON

Herb is not the easiest of names. Not in North America, and especially in Israel. In America, it conjures up images of chubby, balding men in their sixties, or of Celestial Seasonings herbal tea.

It's not a name that goes first when choosing up sides for a pickup basketball game. Nobody is going to select a Herbie over a Bud, Butch, Brent or Bob.

And if you were a 15-year-old gangly girl lacking self-confidence, whom would you rather introduce to your friends as your date, Herbert or Tony?

Here, the situation is a little different. It's not that the name is uncool; for most Israelis, it is simply unpronounceable.

"Shalom, this is Herb Keinon" on the telephone invariably elicits the cranky response "ma?" ("What?"), followed by "mi?" ("Who?"), and then the gentle-sounding "ech?" ("How's that?").

Once, after I repeated my name three times over the telephone, a secretary finally got it: "Ah yes, Helen Keller."

"Harp," my IDF officer once said, constitutionally incapable of shaping his mouth into the "Herb" sound. "Why not Hebraicize your name?"

This question - which many immigrants ask themselves when they first arrive and, if they don't, complete strangers will force upon them - was one of the topics at a conference recently at Bar-Ilan University entitled What's In A Jewish Name.

Avraham Stahl, a lecturer at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's School of Education, said that 40 years ago every clerk or schoolteacher would give immigrants Hebrew names - without asking their consent - while now there is more sensitivity to the importance of a name to a person's identity.

"In the '50s, teachers would ask students their names, and if it was not a Hebrew name, the teacher would often come up with an alternative," Stahl said.

"Often these alternatives were translations, or sounded like the original. I remember when I was teaching, there was once a girl whose name was Alegria, which means happiness in Spanish. I suggested she take on Simha.' She said, 'I can't do that, my sister's name is Simha.' She remained Alegria."

Stahl said the reason for changing names was the difficulty pronouncing names from places such as Hungary or Morocco, as well as an ideological belief that in the Jewish State one should be adorned with a Hebrew name.

"When the immigrants came at the beginning of the state, there was a real concern here that people would not speak Hebrew, that the language would be submerged under the mass of immigrants. A Hebrew name was given on ideological grounds. The problem was that the immigrants were often not asked what they thought about this."

With the state now on a firmer footing, Hebrew names, both first and last, have become much less of an ideological issue.

According to Stahl, the percentage of immigrants from the former Soviet Union changing their names today is much lower than in previous waves of immigration.

Boris, Sofia and Alex are not that difficult for people here to pronounce, he said. Also, there is an increased sensitivity about not forcing Hebrew names on newcomers.

There is even a minor trend for people who Hebraicized their names to change back to the original, Stahl said.

"I met someone the other day whom I had not seen for a while," Stahl said. "I said, 'Hello, Mr. Shirazi.' He corrected me and said his name is Shirabi, and that he changed it back to the original because it was a part of his roots."

Dov Noy, professor emeritus in the department of Hebrew literature at the Hebrew University, whose specialty is folklore, said Jewish tradition frowns on name changes because it is considered a "symbol of an inherited ego."

For this reason, Noy said, many people who took on Hebrew surnames tried to reduce their guilt by making their adopted name a variation of their father's name. Thus the heavy dose of Ben(son-of)-something names in the phone book: Ben-David, Ben-Moshe, Ben-Yehuda, Ben-Zvi.

Name changes are not unique to this country. Stories are legion of immigrants whose names in New York were changed from something like Samet to Smith.

But, Noy said, nowhere has there been so many name changes as in the Yishuv and in Israel just after independence. "There was a special department in the Jewish Agency for changing names," he said, "and eight books on the Hebrew variations of names."

Sasha Weitman, a professor of sociology at Tel Aviv University, has studied the names of the two million Jewish children born here between 1882 and 1980.

Weitman identified four categories of names: the old-time biblical favorites, the "newfangled" Israeli names, Diaspora names and travelers-check names that go over easy both here and abroad.

He has discerned three distinct trends since the 1920s.

Weitman said that from 1920 to 1944, biblical names were all the rage. But these were not names like Avraham, Moshe, Sara and Rivka.

They were, rather, names of warriors, like Yoav, Uri and Avner, which had not been used in the Jewish world for thousands of years.

This was replaced in the early 1950s by what he called the invented-names stage.

"These names were Hebrew names taken from nature. Names having to do with qualities of springtime, beauty. They were names of sensually pleasant things, and this stage reflected a letting go of the biblical tradition for the pursuit of happiness." Examples include Ilan and Oren, both names of trees, Lior (light unto me), Meital (dew) and Inbal (the tongue of a bell).

This lasted until 1970, the year that Weitman said ushered in the era of convertible names that could be used anywhere. Among the convertibles were Adi (Eddie), Tam (Tom), Shirli (Shirley) and Idit (Edith). (The unconvertibles would, for obvious reasons, include Dudu, Osnat and Moran.)

"This stage represented a seeping in of a certain cosmopolitanism," Weitman said.

— [JPFS]

UNDERGROUND MIKVAH FOUND

Officials in Cologne, Germany, unearthed an ancient underground mikvah during routine construction. The city built this glass pyramid around it. [Ron Csillag photo]

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לשנה טובה תכתבו

Holiday marks a shmitta year

By DVORA WAYSMAN

When Rosh Hashanah is ushered in on 1st Tishrei 5754 (corresponding to Sept. 16) it will mark the beginning of a shmitta (sabbatical) year, the seventh year, a year for the soil: "And six years you shall sow your land, and you shall gather in its produce but the seventh year you shall let it rest and lie fallow." (Exodus 23: 10-11)

The shmitta year is also one in which we are commanded to release certain debts: "At the end of every seven years, thou shalt make a release. And this is the manner of the release: every creditor shall release that which he lent unto his neighbor." (Deuteronomy 15:1-2)

Although the laws of the sabbatical remittance of debts apply to Jews everywhere, the obligation to let the land lie fallow is limited to the boundaries of Israel, as they apply only "when ye come into the land which I give you . . ." (Leviticus 25:2)

For many generations (until crop rotation was implemented in the early part of the century), both Jews and gentiles saw the advantages of letting land rest in order to regain its vitality. The theory of the law of shmitta was discussed by Talmudic scholars in the Diaspora, after the destruction of the First Temple, but on the return of the Jewish people to their land and the rebuilding of the Temple, they rigidly adhered to it.

In later years, when Julius Caesar took control of the Land of Israel, he exempted the Jews from taxation every seven years since "they neither take fruit from the trees, nor do they sow." After the abortive Bar Kochba revolt (135 CE), however, the Jews were again compelled to pay taxes during a shmitta year, causing grave hardships. This, in turn, convinced the rabbis to relax many prohibitions for that period.

In modern Israel, shmitta's heavy economic load was too much for the young state, so in the early part of the century, learned rabbis (among them the late Rabbi Abraham Yitzhak Kook, first chief rabbi of the fledgling state), agreed to the use of a heter (dispensation) during the Sabbatical year, to sell land to non-Jews (much like we sell chametz at Pesach). This permitted the land to be worked.

In recent years, other methods of using a heter have also been perfected, such as the early sowing of vegetables before Rosh Hashanah (relying on the view of Rabbi Shimeon of Sens) and the growing of crops by hydroponics or other soil-less systems.

Israeli botanist Meir Schwartz was the founder of the first fully automatic hydroponic farm at the Agudat Israel Kibbutz Hafetz Chaim, near Ashkelon. There are now other hydroponic farms at Ein Gedi and Eilat which use gravel and water culture.

How does the shmitta year affect orthodox Israelis? Throughout the year, lists of shops selling permitted fruits and vegetables that were either grown on non-Jewish soil or came from abroad, appear in the orthodox press. Before the intifada, many Jews bought produce in East Jerusalem, but that is no longer the case.

Jews who approve of the sale of the land for the year, continue to enjoy the produce of the kibbutzim and moshavim. But many observant Jews do not. Although dispensations have been permitted in recent years, they are really emergency measures as implied by Rabbi Kook in the introduction to his work on the shmitta: "Shabbat Ha'aretz" (Sabbath of the Land): "We today are charged with preserving the memory of the commandment until the time is ripe for it to be carried out with all of its minutiae!"

Just as observant Jews work six days and rest on the seventh, dedicating the Sabbath to their connection with God, so shmitta, the seventh year, explains the Torah, affirms God's absolute ownership of the land. — WZPS

A New Year A New Beginning.

Rosh Hashanah is traditionally a time to look back at the year just past. It is also a time of looking forward to a New Year... a new beginning.

May this New Year be one of peace. Peace of mind; peace of spirit. And may it bring peace to our homeland, and a new beginning for its people.

L'Shanna Tova,

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Some people who are reading this were beaten yesterday, or terrorized, or kept in isolation.
Some who tormented them are reading this now.
And they are not strangers to each other; they are family. Intimates. People like us. Us.

Home should be a haven, the place where you can count on being valued and protected.
If instead it is a place where the people closest to you beat you up, or keep you on edge with threats, or isolate and demean you — then what is safe?

Violence in the family is not love; it is not discipline; it is not deserved.
It is an abuse of power, and it is wrong —

because decent people don't behave that way,
because it is against the law, and for one more reason:
we are all made in the image of God.
To lash out in violence —
especially against someone whose life is linked with yours —
is to violate a likeness of God, and to degrade that likeness in yourself.

Are you being hurt or humiliated by the person you are closest to?
Believe that you do not deserve the abuse.
No one has the right to tell you that you are worthless: your worth comes from God.

Have you been taking out your anger and frustration against the people who depend on you?
Know that you are better than that; you are made in the image of God. You have the power to stop hurting and belittling them. God gives it to you.

To all who read this, we ask:

■ Look at yourself, at your partner, at your elderly parents, at your children, as images of God. Treat each of them with the respect which that demands.

■ Make your home a haven. Instead of raising your hand or your voice, raise your own dignity and the self-esteem of the people who turn to you for love. You may not be able to perfect the world, but this much you can do.

■ Help your religious community to face the fact of domestic violence and to offer active support to those who have been enduring abuse, threats, and humiliation. A house of God should be a place for teaching restraint, decency, and reverence; make yours that place.

■ *Behave as though God made you worthy; it is true. Behave as though the world depends on your humanity and your decency. It does.*

וְעַל חֵטְא שֶׁחָטָאנוּ לְפָנֶיךָ בְּגָלוּי וּבַסָּתֶר׃

"...for the sin which we have committed before Thee, openly and in secret..."
High Holy Day Liturgy

At this time of the Jewish New Year, we wish all our friends a year of strength and dignity.

AND THE BUSH WAS NOT CONSUMED — וְהַסְּנֶה אֵינֶנּוּ אֻכָּל

The Jewish Theological Seminary of America

The Seminary is the academic and religious centre of the worldwide movement of Conservative Judaism.
Believing that its message for the New Year 5754 is of compelling importance, we have arranged for its publication.
Single copies and permission to reprint granted on request to Alan Ades, Chairman, High Holy Day Message Committee.
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לשנה טובה תכתבו

The Year of Jerusalem

By GEORGE PROCHNIK

Jerusalem is 3,000 years old, give and take a few years, and in honor of this, the Education Ministry has declared The Year of Jerusalem in the public school system.

Numerous special events and programs designed to help young Israelis learn more about the city have been implemented. One of the most creative is the Avenues of History, recently developed by the Youth Wing of the Israel Museum to familiarize students with five key phases in Jerusalem's early history.

The names and dates may sound dry — the Davidic kingdom (1010-970 B.C.E.), the Assyrian siege (700 B.C.E.), the Roman conquest and building campaign (37-4 B.C.E.), the High Priesthood's political ascendancy (1st century C.E.), and the reign of Hadrian (117-138 C.E.) — but this history lesson is anything but.

Consisting of short talks throughout the museum's archaeology wing, the program is topped off by a climactic panel discussion in the museum auditorium. The speakers in the Avenues of History are not Professor This or That, but rather King David, Herod, Joseph the High Priest, Hadrian and King Sennacherib of Assyria, all actors from Jerusalem's professional street theatre, dressed in striking period costumes.

Herod wears a toga and sandals and stands surrounded by fragments of Roman statuary. With clenched fists, he angrily addresses the wide-eyed youngsters, bemoaning the fact that although he filled the city with magnificent marble monuments and ruled for 33 years with even-handed imperial justice, he never succeeded in conquering the hearts of his people. After pleading his case, he drops his head and trudges grimly back behind a pedestal, waving the students on with a flourish of his hand.

The students walk through the galleries to find the next speaker, Joseph Ben Caiaphas, high priest during the time of Jesus, standing by the recently excavated bones of the real Caiaphas. The bearded actor, dressed in a tall hat and richly jeweled robes, touches his namesake's final resting place several times in order to emphasize that his claim upon the office of High Priest is — literally — carved in stone.

After the students visit each of the five historical areas, they meet in the auditorium. On one day, sixth graders from Kibbutz Hof Carmel fired impressively provocative questions at the actors, almost sparking a full-scale war of words between the panelists.

King David did an admirable job as moderator, keeping the discussion well-balanced and fast-moving. When one young man confronted David with how he justified killing a man to marry his wife, there was a great deal of beard-stroking on David's part. At last he threw up his hands and said, "I'll tell you the truth — I can't!"

Joseph the High Priest was told in no uncertain terms by one bright-eyed young girl that his accepting money for performing the holy services at the Temple could never be justified.

Some teachers have repeatedly brought students to Avenues of History. "The night after the first group got back home," said one, "my phone did not stop ringing. Parents called to say how amazed and happy they were that their dinner conversations had been full of excited questions on subjects like the city's water system, built by King Hezekiah in the 8th century B.C.E.

"When a 9-year-old who likes skateboarding and Ninja Turtles starts asking questions about ancient surveying techniques, I think to myself, this is something none of my students can afford to miss."

The students appreciate learning history from a personal perspective, not a text-book. "You're always hearing what a bad guy Herod was," said one. "Here you see that Herod was human too. He had problems to deal with that he didn't create and a lot of them were really big problems, just like today."

David's Tower in Jerusalem.

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לשנה טובה תכתבו

Experts work diligently on plan for Israel's future

By CARL ALPERT

When the State of Israel came into being in 1948, and was faced with emergency need to handle the vast influx of immigrants, the inexperienced leaders of the state asked in desperation: "What do we do first? What is our long range plan?" With government encouragement, a group of 180 professionals, headed by Architect Arieh Sharon, went to work and prepared a comprehensive master plan, which was published in 1951. The government never formally adopted it, but for lack of any other guidance, the authorities followed its recommendations.

It determined where Israel's population should be dispersed. It decided where towns were to be established. It outlined a road network. A second port was located at Ashdod, the National Water Carrier was put into effect, the location of agricultural and industrial lands was specified, and much more.

All went relatively well — but that was more than 40 years ago. Since then the population of the country has increased five-fold, and all the original plans have become obsolete.

It's horrifying to realize that practically all major decisions affecting the national growth and development during the past several decades have been made on an arbitrary basis, and without serious consideration of long-time effects.

Three years ago the Israel Association of Architects and Town Planners offered to make a study and draw up plans for the development of the country during the next 30 years. The government declined the offer, but the experts went ahead on their own and prepared a suggested program of operation. And then the country was suddenly overwhelmed by the mass immigration from Eastern Europe. No one in authority knew where to settle them, how to provide infrastructure, how to guide the economy so as to make jobs available, where they were to be sent, etc.

The government changed its mind very quickly and authorized what was called "a long term plan for Israel." No less than 150 experts from various disciplines have been working on the plan for the past ten years with practically no publicity. It is a collective effort of the major institutions of higher learning, government ministries and the Jewish Agency. Headquarters is located at the Technion in Haifa, and project director is Prof. Adam Mazor of the Technion.

Their job is not to put out fires, or meet current energencies, of which there are many, but to provide a national program for future development that must take into consideration every possibility of change. For example, will an independent state of Palestine be established alongside Israel, and if so, how will that affect the economy? Or, will Israel annex Judea and Samaria outright? Perhaps the status quo will continue for a long time. They have set up 26 different concepts of Israel's condition a few years hence — all of them genuine possibilities.

Under every set of circumstances, the Plan must provide for alternative solutions to all social, economic, environmental and security problems. The program must be clear and rational, but can not be rigid. There must be flexibility to adjust itself to changing conditions. The task is obviously enormous, but the experts have now been working on it for two years, and hope to have their first document ready for publication within the coming two years. It will probably never be adopted by the Knesset; there will be too much to argue about, but as need arises, it will undoubtedly serve as a guide for national policy.

Prof. Mazor, project director, described for us how an average meeting is held. Forty experts, representing all major aspects of national existence, gather in an intensive brain-storming session which can last up to twelve hours. They immerse themselves in the subject being considered, and spark off ideas and plans, all of which are carefully documented, later to be fitted into the master plan. And then another such meeting is held, and another.

The process seems slow, but every contingency must be taken into consideration. Lack of such a plan since the 1951 program became outmoded was responsible for hasty decisions on an ad hoc basis, without consideration of the effects, and Israel is today paying the price. To be sure, there is no precedent in the world for an explosive national growth such as Israel has enjoyed since it came into existence, and so the planning is creative in the truest sense.

What provisions must be made for transportation and communications? What areas must be set aside as nature preserves, not to be invaded under any circumstances? How can urban congestion be avoided? How can the national economy be restructured, considering that the population may very well double again in the next 30 years?

There are dozens of questions — and thousands of possible answers. It should be encouraging to realize that queitly, seriously, and without spotlights, the best brains of the country, freed of any political influence or pressures, are these very days hard at work drawing up a new master plan for Israel. It's about time.

ISRAEL'S MOST NORTHERN VILLAGE

The Mill Fall on Nahal Ayoun Reserve is so called because it powered an adjoining flow-mill that last operated 70 years ago. The remains of the mill can still be seen today. It is the second water fall in the reserve south of Metulla. [Edgar Asher photo]

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לשנה טובה תכתבו

China: A diplomat's dream

By ABRAHAM RABINOVICH

It was a diplomat's dream: an empty desk, a telephone, almost total anonymity and a country like China waiting to be opened up.

Zev Sufott was 64 and almost at the end of his diplomatic career when he was dispatched to Beijing in March 1991. The assumption in Jerusalem was that formal diplomatic relations were still three to four years away. Within less than a year, however, Sufott was presenting his credentials as Israel's first ambassador to China.

In a Jerusalem cafe, a smile still on his face, Sufott recalled his passage through the gates of the Middle Kingdom from which he returned only recently to embark on his delayed retirement.

After decades of ignoring Israel, China had agreed in 1989 to the Israel Academy of Arts and Sciences opening a liaison office in Beijing. The following year Israel's request to add a diplomat was accepted, but only as an adviser without diplomatic standing.

The choice fell on Sufott, just returned from a posting as ambassador at The Hague. In the 1950s he had studied Chinese for two years and was thus the closest thing the ministry had to a Chinese expert.

His Chinese was rusty, and it was a Chinese secretary who placed the phone calls to journalists and officials. "When you talk to the press in China," he said, "you are not addressing public opinion but the government. The press is part of the establishment." Some of the journalists refused to meet with him.

"We were still at the time being blamed by the Chinese for everything. One journal, *The Beijing Review*, had written that Israel invaded Palestine in 1948. There was a PLO embassy in Beijing. We had been called in the early years 'imperialist stooges.' Then we graduated to being 'running dogs of the Americans.' Our aim was to moderate this situation."

In the initial meetings, officials in the Chinese foreign ministry were courteous, but they would not escort him upon his departure to the stairway, in order to avoid being seen by foreign diplomats, particularly Arabs.

The meetings, nevertheless, laid the basis for what followed. Initially Sufott brought a translator with him, but she proved incapable of grasping the nuances of the diplomatic dialogue. He came to rely instead on the official interpreters provided by the Chinese. "They were superb."

Cups with tea leaves would be presented at the beginning of these sessions and a woman would fill them periodically with boiling water.

The ground rules for the dialogue were made clear by the Chinese early on. "They use the term nai xin or patience, the way Israelis use the word savlanut. Except that the Chinese mean it. They are the most patient people in the world and we are the most impatient. They prefer a subtle, indirect dialogue."

The Israeli envoy undertook his own patient long march by organizing visits to Israel by Chinese newsmen and officials. Just six weeks after Sufott's arrival, the head of the West Asian and North African desk at the Chinese foreign ministry undertook an unpublicized visit to Israel. Visits by trade and technological delegations followed and similar Israeli delegations began to visit China.

The atmosphere in Beijing soon began to change. After a visit to the foreign ministry one day, Sufott was astonished when his hosts insisted on accompanying him to the stairway. "That was the first straw in the wind."

When he extended a lunch invitation to an official who had just returned from a secret visit to Israel, he declined until Sufott assured him that the lunch would be in his own apartment and without outside guests. The day after the lunch, he received a call from the official's office inviting him to lunch.

The Chinese had realized they should have given the lunch, since the official had just been hosted in Israel. Apparently to make up for the slight, Sufott and his aides were invited to one of the best-known restaurants in town, the Beijing Roast Duck Restaurant, even though they would almost certainly be seen with the official by other diplomats.

The Madrid Peace Conference in October 1991 dramatically changed the nature of the Beijing-Jerusalem dialogue. With Japan, Russia and other countries gaining a place at the Middle East negotiating table as parties to the multilateral talks, China decided to get on the bandwagon.

That December, deputy foreign minister Yang Fuchang flew to Jerusalem to discuss diplomatic relations. The following month, foreign minister David Levy arrived in Beijing for the formal ceremony and Sufott became ambassador.

Since the establishment of official relations, trade between the two countries has been extremely modest - about $50 million in Israeli products to China and $5 million the other way in the first year. The future, however, offers immense promise, Sufott said. "By 2015, according to, *The Economist*," China will have the largest economy in the world. Now is the time for us to learn China."

There is much to learn. Sitting in on meetings between Israeli trade delegations and their Chinese counterparts, Sufott would wince as the Israelis talked expansively of building up Chinese industry and making Beijing a trade hub.

"The Chinese were shocked. They're so delicate and polite. We are two very different peoples in every way. The Chinese are sensitive to other people. They don't want to offend or lose face. The Israeli is outward going. He doesn't observe how the other man reacts."

Nevertheless, Sufott hopes that the rough spots will be worn smooth by continued contacts. Hundreds of Chinese officials, journalists and experts in various fields have visited Israel in the past year and a number of Israeli companies like Scitex and Teva are already beginning to find their feet in China.

"The Chinese have enormous curiosity about us. They know we're tough, that we're a postwar success story and that we have become a modern technological society."

The story of the coming decades will be one of economic development, Sufott said. "The Israeli-Arab squabble or the Bosnian situation are primeval. The world is moving toward a completely different order and China will be one of the vast economies of the coming century. We've come in just at the right time."

— JPFS

Girls and boys during morning prayer at a TALI school in Jerusalem.

Educational alternative proves popular in Israel

By LISA SAMIN

Getting a Jewish religious education in Israel used to be fairly straightforward. Children either attended the state secular schools, which include basic Judaic studies, or the state religious schools, where belief, practice and learning go hand-in-hand.

For a small group of predominantly Anglo-Saxon parents these choices were too polarized; there was no flexibility in the strict religious studies, and no room for a more traditional, pluralistic approach to Judaism in the secular schools.

Utilizing a law which allows 10 percent of the parents to determine 25 percent of their children's curriculum, this coterie of parents started "TALI," a program for enriching Judaic studies. Established 16 years ago as a private, non-profit foundation in Jerusalem, supported by the Conservative Movement in Israel, TALI is now operating with about 7,500 children in 23 schools throughout Israel.

In its uphill struggle for recognition by the Ministry of Education and Israeli society in general, TALI has introduced an alternative track in Judaic studies; offering traditional exposure to text and religious law, without enforcing strict belief or practice. The program runs in secular state schools, often alongside the regular curriculum, and is based on close cooperation between the TALO foundation, the school administration and the parents.

"This program offers parents the option of giving their children a thorough religious education, without they or their children having to be full-practicing Jews," says TALI Director Yosef Ben Rachamim.

Brinn facing opposition

"We respect the decision of each family on how they choose to be Jewish," says TALI Pedagogic Counselor David Brody. "Our program does not exclude any view of Judaism. We are trying to give our children knowledge, to make the learning enjoyable, not to enforce practice."

Says Shelly Brinn, a new immigrant from the U.S. who is trying to start a TALI nursery school in her Jerusalem neighborhood, and facing opposition from the city's religious faction, "TALI is a more critical approach in which understanding our tradition is important, but the children are able to evaluate for themselves their approach to the religion."

For many non-practicing parents; sending their children to a religious school, while not fully observing the religion at home causes conflict for the child. "However," says Brody, "These same parents want their children to know more than they know about the religion. It is possible for a child in Israel to go through the secular educational system without learning to pray in the synagogue, without knowing the basic tenets of Jewish life."

Educational activities also include parent/child workshops, trips and classes together for celebrating the holidays and the Sabbath. It offers many families the chance to develop their own way to express their Judaism at home.

Says Dorothy Harman, who has been involved in TALI since its inception, "The greatest problem facing TALI today is the lack of a cadre of qualified teachers for our special curriculum. We have small classes and committed parents, but we need a core faculty to carry the program forward."

Rachamim, Director of TALI for two years, is intent on marketing the TALI program more aggressively. He is now working with school administrators to incorporate the TALI curriculum into their Judaic studies program, rather than subjecting parents to the difficult process of gaining approval from the Ministry of Education. "Jewish children should learn about their tradition and heritage in school," says Rachamim. — WZPS

Children studying Bible

The TALI curriculum, sanctioned by the Ministry of Education, is based on religious studies and creative religious experiences. The children study the Bible, Rabbinic literature, the prayerbook, holidays, laws, and the cycle of Jewish life. Prayers, often through song, are said every morning and boys are required to wear yarmulkes for them. But there is no school pressure to follow these, or any other rituals learned, at home.

Children in TALI receive their first prayerbook in first grade, when they are blessed by the Sephardi Chief Rabbi.

These same children will sit in the Succah of a Conservative Rabbi and learn about Succoth. They read original text, learn about Jewish values such as giving charity, visiting the sick, honoring their elders, etc., and then actualize this in their day-to-day activities.

Says Oren, a 13-year-old in the TALI program, "My parents are both traditional, and we celebrate the holidays, but now I feel like my Jewish identity belongs to me."

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לשנה טובה תכתבו

Jewish calendars inspire

By ROSE KLEINER

With candlelighting times, weekly Torah readings and Hebrew dates, Jewish calendars keep us attuned to the rhythm of Jewish life and give us a sense of continuity with our heritage. Often richly illustrated, with magnificent photographs of Judaica treasures, these calendars enhance our environment, and inspire us with their beauty.

The following calendars cover a period of 16 months, and most of them give candlelighting times for Toronto, Montreal, Detroit and Los Angeles, along with other major U.S. cities.

Illuminations: A Jewish Calendar From The British Library (Pomegranate) has a glorious illustration for every month, celebrating revered Jewish texts. Pages from some of the finest illuminated texts in the British Library's collection are reproduced here in all their brilliant colors.

One of the most striking pages in this calendar carries an illumination from the Lisbon Mishne Torah (Portugal, 1471). An absorbing colorful page from a Spanish Bible of 1384, features an assortment of Temple instruments.

From Universe Publishers come two calendars, one for the desk and one for the wall. *The Jewish Calendar 5754* for the desk, carries all sorts of information. In addition to the Torah reading it gives short excerpts from Talmudic and other Jewish sources. (The Tanzer Rebbe was asked by his disciples what he does in order to prepare for prayer. He answered: "I pray that I might be able to pray.")

This calendar contains a unique and handy holiday chart, arranged along categories such as theme, mood, customs, seasonal and historical significance — for those in a hurry when preparing for the holidays.

Folk Art At The Jewish Museum, the Universe Wall Calendar, also extends through December 1994 and lists, in addition to the Jewish holidays, civic holidays in Canada, the United States and Britain. The list of Jewish holidays extends through 1998.

A variety of topics is covered by the folk art in this calendar. There is a magnificent Mizrah decoration (U.S. 1903), for the eastern wall in a Jewish home, a charming painting by Harry Lieberman, a Purim decoration (from 1927, Vienna), and an embroidery depicting a verse from Psalm 137. A painting by Marcia Ruth, *The New Immigrants*, captures so well the loneliness of the immigrant experience, with its portraits of a sparsely furnished flat and its newly arrived, isolated, tenant family.

Universe also produces *The Jewish Museum Address Book* — a useful and lasting book that some lucky recipient will treasure for a long time. The theme of the book is Tradition On Paper: Image And Spirit, and it highlights 20 marvellous works from the Judaica Collection of The Jewish Museum.

Illustrations from the Collection of the Israel Museum, Jerusalem, grace the pages of the *Jewish Calendar 1994*, from Hugh Lauter Levit Associates (distributed by Macmillan Publishing).

This wall calendar has a list of Jewish holidays through 1999, four wall calendars, and a selection of photos on each page which re-create many memorable events in Jewish life. There is a brightly colored 19th century prayer book from Iran, a white satin High Holy Day head covering from the 19th century, a bird-shaped silver etrog box from the Ottoman Empire, and elaborate Torah crowns from 18th century Germany, Poland and Alsace.

Most unusual is the silver Purim mask, adorned with peacock feathers and crafted for a Purim ball, by Moshe Zabari, in 1988.

One of the finest calendars around is actually directed at the younger set. *My Very Own Jewish Calendar*, published by Kar-Ben Copies, may be for children, but adults, too, will enjoy sharing the anecdotes, trivia, photos and other information and activities contained here.

For example, from this calendar we learn that the shofar is blown in Israel at the inauguration of a new president, and that the first etrog boxes, in 17th century Europe, were boxes used to store sugar, then a precious commodity.

The calendar gives you a capsule history of such diverse subjects as the Hebrew months of the year, the use of salt in Jewish tradition, and the use of tzitzit, or the fringed garment, in Jewish life.

To keep up with the times the calendar has instructions for making an environmentally-friendly dreidel. It also lists a fax number that will receive your prayers in Israel, and which phone company employees in Israel will then deliver to the Western Wall.

Another informative detail from this delightful calendar is that there are two playgrounds for children in the United States (at Jewish community centres in Cleveland and Detroit) where kids can climb the Tower of Babel, explore Noah's Ark, or slide down Jonah's whale. To order a copy of *My Very Own Jewish Calendar* call 1-800-4-Karben, in Canada and the United States.

Song contest unites youth

By HELEN KAYE

Call it the Maccabiah of song.

The second Hallelujah Worldwide Jewish Song Contest, like the recent 14th Maccabiah, was about bringing together international Jewish youth to compete while, at the same time, finding common ground on Israeli soil.

Five entrants from five different countries, sitting on the lawn at the old Mikveh Yisrael agricultural school where they all stayed, were unanimous in singing its praises.

"I like the concept of bringing Jews from all over," said Emma Gersh of Redbridge in the UK. "You meet all these people, listen to their stories. It's a bonding of the Jewish people."

The others agreed, and Ruthi Mor of Denver, Colorado, talked about the previous night's spontaneous songfest. "For the first time in my life I could sit down with people and sing. We have our Jewishness and the music in common and it makes the road to friendship a lot easier."

The contestants were mostly non-professionals. Benji Gonshor, 18, of Montreal, plans to study law and business and sing on the side.

Mor and Gersh, both 16, are still at school and career decisions are years off.

But Nathalie Cohen, 18, from just outside Paris, is already a professional singer and so is David Hadzis of Geneva, Switzerland, the oldest of the group at 21. His song, *In the Books of Life*, which he composed, is a tribute to his rabbi father who's buried in Haifa.

The songs, in a variety of musical styles, were sung in their native language, but one of the verses had to be in Hebrew. The kids also learned a couple of Israeli songs that the whole group sang at the final performance which was broadcasted over Kol Yisrael and ITV.

This year's theme song was *Forever and For Always*.

While some contestants, like Hadzis, returned home immediately after the contest, many visited with relatives.

Named for the Israeli song which won the 1979 Eurovision song contest, HallelujaH is the brainchild of producer Eitan Gafni and his collaborators at Meitar, an association established in 1990 to foster cultural relations among Jews.

There were contestants from Russia, Turkey, the Czech Republic, Italy, Belarus, Lithuania, the United States, South Africa, Bulgaria and Germany as well as three local groups from Dimona, Hof Hacarmel and Ra'anana.

The HallelujaH chair was singer Yehoram Gaon and the event was sponsored by the ministry of education and culture, the youth department of The Jewish Agency, the Jewish National Fund and The Jerusalem Post, among others.

— JPFS

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Holocaust horrors pushed Jews onward

By HANNAH KRALL

Hanna Krall, an award-winning journalist and writer, was born in Poland and now lives in Warsaw. As a child, being hidden by a Polish family, she survived World War II. This period of her life is depicted in an autobiographical novel The Subtenant, *which was translated and published in five languages. her other book,* To Outwit *God (also known in English under the title* Shielding The Flame*) was translated into 14 languages. The book* Hypnosis, *(excerpts of which are published here) was published in five languages.*

A.F. (a businessman):

There were a thousand houses in Rakoshyn, a Christian church for Hungarians and for Poles, a united Orthodox church for Ukrainians, a Jewish synagogue, and Rakoshyn's own calendar. In the spring a goose would be fattened for Passover, and in the fall a chicken for Yom Kippur, following Rosh Hashanah, when the afternoons began to be shorter and the shadows increasingly longer; then the must for the new wine was put up, and after the wine the feathers were plucked, and after the feathers it was time to dip the potatoes for Chanukah latkes.

Those who lived on the side of the Christian church spoke Yiddish with a Hungarian accent, while those living on the side of the Orthodox church spoke Yiddish with an Ukrainian accent.

When the ghetto was established in Rakoshyn, our Ukrainian neighbors wanted to hide one of my sisters in their house and the Hungarian neighbors wanted to hide the other, but my dad thanked them profoundly and said, he preferred the whole family to be killed together, so at least he would know how his children had died.

Just before Passover, our former Ukrainian neighbor, who had become a policeman, said to my dad: "You have two more nights left. Sleep quietly tonight, tomorrow prepare to be ready to leave, and the day after tomorrow I will come to fetch you." Dad thanked the neighbor for his kindness, mom treated him with last year's wine and we went to sleep.

The next day we packed our belongings, sat in front of the house and listened to a strange sound, constantly growing in the city. It was like a moan, like chanting. When it came closer, I said to my dad that I still would rather live than perish with the whole family, and I went in the direction of Mukachev.

Just on the outskirts of Mukachev, my younger brother caught up with me. He was holding a bundle in his hand and said that dad ordered me to come back, but I was already 15, so I said that nobody would boss me around.

Then my brother took out from the bundle the suit they made for my bar mitzvah, told me to take care of myself, and turned back to Rakoshyn.

Two weeks later we were loaded into a train in Mukachev and we got out on the platform in Auschwitz. The selection was conducted by Doctor Mengele himself, who was picking out healthy children from 14- to 17-years-old. Mengele was calm and very attractive looking. He was silent and just kept pointing with his forefinger: left, right, left, left, left . . . and the SS men escorted the children to the side.

The children were crying for their parents, the parents were trying to take back their children, the SS men were shouting, and in this noise just the two of us kept quiet, Mengele and I. He, for he was just pointing with his finger and I, for I had nobody left to cry for.

At the end of the month of Tishrei, with the passing of the fall holidays, which are said to contain the mystery of Judaism, all Jewish children still alive occupied a single barrack.

We were liberated by the Americans. It happened in the mountains on our way to Dachau. Right away I left for Rakoshyn and began to wait. I waited for six months, but no one came back. When I became aware that there was nothing to wait for, I returned to my friends from the camp. We flew by airplane to London, sailed on the ship to Halifax and from Halifax we travelled by train. Some got off in Montreal, some in Toronto, and the rest in Vancouver, because the train wouldn't go any further.

The Canadians imagined that there were two Europes: one, in which strange, fatal things occurred, and another, from where their heroes came back.

When we began to tell them about Auschwitz, the women who let us into their homes would say: "Do you think we didn't go through dreadful things here? Sugar was rationed, you had to wait two years for a new car, and the cloth allowance was so scanty that there wasn't enough for pant cuffs. Our fathers had to wear pants without cuffs!" (Only after 40 years did the Canadians begin to ask us about the European war: "We read that conditions were very unpleasant there, is it really true?").

So we stopped boring them, resumed our lives, and began to look for work, because if you didn't have work, even surviving the war wouldn't make you happy. At that time Toronto stretched from Lake Ontario north to St. Clair Street and beyond St. Clair there was nothing but woods. So the Jews, who looked for work, went to the woods.

Many people came from Europe after the war, but all of them gravitated to their own. Poles to Poles, to Windsor, Ukrainians to Ukrainians, to Winnipeg. Only the Jews moved straight ahead, into the open spaces, into the woods.

It was not courage that drove us, but horror.

The Canadian Jews weren't bad people. It's true that they didn't want to hear our sad stories, but they would kindly show us how to switch on the light. After all, we had come from the East, ignorant and backwards, so how would we know how to switch on the light? And they were truly eager to teach us.

RABBI D.M. (a Reform rabbi):

Survivors from the Holocaust belong to Conserative synagogues, if they belong anywhere, if, after having survived Auschwitz, they didn't lose their faith. We are not surprised, after all, that many lost their faith. Rather, we are surprised that so many kept it, despite Auschwitz.

Their children born in Canada belong to us, to the Reform synagogues.

The survivors stayed with the Conservative synagogue because they had always belonged to it — in their former homes, in the Polish shtetl in Eastern Europe.

The children of survivors left the old synagogue because they wanted to get away from their parents and from their old Polish homes.

The survivors brought up their children in an atmosphere of emotional blackmail and financial support. The blackmail was a burden — people who survived the Holocaust deserved, after all, special attention and obedience, and their support was generous. The people who survived wanted to give their children everything they themselves did not get: education, status, and position.

I was born in Jaslo, Poland, I survived the war in the Gulag in the Aldan Country in Russian, after the war I lived in Sosnowiec. I prepared for my bar mitzvah all by myself, because my parents were extreme leftists and my mother ostentatiously didn't come to the synagogue for my bar mitzvah ceremony. Shortly after my bar mitzvah there was a pogrom in Kielce.

I graduated from high school in Sweden, did my university studies in England, and now I am a rabbi in Canada.

My mother lives in Goeteborg. Sometimes she comes to visit me, and before returning home she says by mistake: — "Well, I am going back to Sosnowiec."

She has lived in Sweden for 40 years and has visited me many times in London and in Toronto, and never has she returned home to Goeteborg. "I am going back to Sosnowiec," she says every time.

A.F.:

Tomorrow is Thursday. Tomorrow, my wife's nephew will be introduced in the synagogue. The rabbi will call him to read the Torah and he will announce that the fellow is going to be married. Then he will give him several pieces of advice and his blessing for the future.

The reading from the Torah takes place in all the synagogues throughout the whole world three times a week: Monday, Thursday and Saturday.

Once, a long time ago, in most Polish towns, Monday and Thursday were the market days, so the rabbi, used this opportunity, because all the Jews in the vicinity came to town to do business, and he held prayers on these days. And that's why my wife's brother, one of the biggest businessmen in Toronto, is going to put on the tefillin tomorrow. And therefore his son is going to be called to read from the Torah tomorrow.

Because tomorrow is Thursday.

Because long ago, in some small Polish towns, Thursday was the market day.

Because long ago, in some small Polish towns, Jews had lived.

[Translation from Polish was by Paulina Feder-Rooz and Doris Epstein.]

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Alan Newton & Staff
would like to
take this opportunity
to wish all their
Clients, Friends & Relatives
a Healthy & Happy
New Year.

לשנה טובה תכתבו

Program participants take a stroll through Kibbutz Baram in the upper Galilee with teacher and project director Stewart Bialer. [WZPS photo]

Black, Hispanic kids take studies in Israel

By DINA SHILOH

"People thought I was crazy to go to the Middle East," says Leila Bonner, 19. "They said, 'You're gonna get shot out there!'"

Laila and 13 other black and Hispanic students from New York's West Side Alternative High School, are in Israel for 10 weeks on a program run by TL Youthworks, an independent educational foundation that has been bringing "at risk" students from New York's inner city to kibbutzim since 1989.

Staying at Kibbutz Baram in Upper Galilee, they work and study and learn how to interact kibbutz style. "I didn't realize it would be so green," remarks Cynthia Asjana, 20, originally from the Dominican Republic. "I thought Israel would be all desert with huts in the sand."

The reality is quite different. Kibbutz Baram, founded 44 years ago, is set in lush green countryside on Israel's northern border. Well established, with large houses and luxuriant flowerbeds, there are no shootouts and no street fights. The only guns belong to soldiers who come home on the weekends.

How does it compare to Harlem?

For Ricky Desjardins, a 17-year-old Latino, the contrast is enormous. "I came on the trip because I was really tired of the city. You wake up and all you see is drugs and violence all day. I'm used to walking down the street, looking behind me every five seconds. But here on the kibbutz I feel a safety I have never felt before. And in the city, you never get an opportunity to get to know other people."

"The program has been running for five years," explains Stewart Bialer, the pupils' genial teacher and project director. "After 28 years of teaching, I came up with the idea of bringing students out to Israel who would then get credited for the time spent here. Our school is an 'alternative' one which means it's geared towards students who don't fit in well with the regular school system, for whatever reason. Almost all of them are from single parent, low income families."

Bialer founded the non-profit TL Youthworks, which sponsors the trip and follow-up program back in the United States "so the whole experience is not just forgotten about." It is funded by various corporations, "generous individuals," and the students' families.

But why kibbutz? Why not any country with a warm climate and pretty countryside? "Kibbutz is perfect," Bialer enthuses, "because the kids see another way of life — a society where conflict is resolved through co-operation and not through violence. I wanted the students to be able to interact positively with each other, to learn these co-operative living skills. I think it also gives them an insight into different types of people, breaking down their stereotypes."

All very well intentioned, but is it working?

On a hot sunny afternoon, the students sit in their spartan dormitories and thoughtfully consider the question. "To me New York Jews are black, religious and separate," says Cynthia. "But Israelis are something else . . . Israelis are really friendly."

Rickey says close contact with Jewish people has completely changed his attitude. "I used to think Jews were cheap, and they all had big noses — you know you hear all kinds of negative things. But over here I see it all differently. Because here I am in the Jewish homeland."

Roy Smith, a black attorney and freelance journalist from New York who is accompanying the group and writing about it for the black press back home, also feels the program is the way to confront stereotypes. "I hope the trip will help resolve some of the tensions between the city's black and Jewish communities," he says.

The students work like other members, getting up daily at 5 a.m. and packing apples grown in the kibbutz orchards. They don't seem to mind the physical work. Some even enjoy it. "It's a good feeling, to get up so early and go out to work," says Laila. "It's fun . . . I love nature and back home I go to Bronx Zoo and the park — but this is really something."

They eat a self-service breakfast at 7 a.m. with the kibbutz members in the large communal dining room. Opinions are mixed over the kibbutz food. "Salad, salad, salad," says Cynthia disgustedly. But Ricky likes it: "All the food you want, it's great. I've given up eating meat out here."

After breakfast, the group is back at work in the apple orchard. Then it's lunch and the work day is over. This is when the boredom sets in.

"I kind of miss the action," says Robert Mantilla, an 18-year-old Latino, "and the only TV channel in English is MTV out of Asia. It's a real drag."

Christine Cruz, an 18-year-old Latino, looking up from writing in her diary (each student is supposed to keep one), expresses her pleasure in living so closely, and spending so much time, with others. "I am a different person out here, more open. I really feel like this trip has changed my life," she says. Christine, who raises her younger sister alone back in New York, says: "I am just happy I came out here and tried it."

The students also have a group dynamics session every afternoon with Bialer, which has clearly contributed to their articulacy. They talk about their problems with one another as well as living thousands of miles away from home in a very different society.

Most of the students felt coming to Israel was a dangerous decision. "The Middle East — everybody said oh man, bombs in your room, kidnapped airplanes . . . ," says Sean Mitaynes, a 16-year-old Latino. And, in fact, living on the border has made them aware of the sensitivities of the Arab-Israel conflict. They have found the trips around the country "educational," says Laila. "But it's been really fun, too." "Now I think I understand the situation here better," adds Ricky.

In the evening there are movies, TV, and a weekly disco. "The music is terrible — all old stuff from the '70s," says Akila Brown, an 18-year-old who has nine brothers and sisters back home "all doing their own thing." They even play *Grease*, can you believe it?" She shrieks

[Cont'd. on page 18]

A's . . .

The Apelowicz Family

wishing our family and friends
a Happy and Healthy New Year

Nathan & Rina Arback

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Walter & Edie Arbib
Stephen & Dana

Wish all their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Max & Paula Adler
Helena, William & Mae Adler
and Family

wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

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Wish all their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Keith & Sheila Alexander
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Wish their relatives, friends & neighbors a happy and healthy New Year.

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Wish all their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Barry & Eleanor Appleby
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Wish all their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Honey & Roy Agar
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wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

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Mr Fishl Burakowski

wishes his relatives, friends and neighbors a happy and healthy New Year.

Sharon & Syd Bojarski
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Molly & Bert Bainerman

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Allan & Nancy Blackstien

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Abe & Dorka Blady

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Joseph & Rose Berkan
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Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Susan & Fred Birnbaum

wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Esther & Richard Birnbaum

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Sala & Ben Blady

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Sam & Rose Bierstone
and family

wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

לשנה טובה תכתבו

Mr. & Mrs. Sam Brand, Bonnie, Barry, Toby, Morris and Grandchildren

Wish their relatives, friends & neighbors a happy and healthy New Year.

Best wishes for a year of peace and serenity, health and happiness to our relatives and friends and the people of Israel.

Joe & Carmela Betel

Arthur Birnbaum and Susan McCallum

Wish all their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Larry & Helen Bossin Brian, Melanie & Robbie

Wish all their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Mirella & Getzel Bialick

333 Clark Ave. W., Thornhill

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Carol and Bernard Braun and Family

wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Abe & Gertie Barath

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Bella Brand and The Hennick Family Barry, Sylvia, Eleanor and Karen

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Harvey & Rivy Blass Joel, Mitchell, Felyce & Elana

wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Rita & Manny Brykman Natalie, Bobby, Kyle, Jennifer & Michelle

wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Anne & Allan Bank

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Best wishes for a year of peace and serenity, health and happiness to our relatives and friends and the people of Israel.

Soorah & Sid Borovoy Ruth & Chris Barry & Lori & Joshua

Majer & Renia Britstone & Family

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Wish all their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Freda & Abe Harvey, Fay & Adam Larry & Marla Blankenstein Annette & Randy, Hailey, Marlee & Jayme Goodman Sharon & Joel, Jordanna & Calli Waisglass

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wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Dr. & Mrs. Alan Bobkin Erin and Alyssa

wish their patients, relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Renee & Jack A. Blustein

wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Best wishes for a year of peace and serenity, health and happiness to our relatives and friends and the people of Israel.

Rose & Dave Brown

Molly & David Bloom Corinne & Michael

Wish all their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

El Al Tashkent flight new hope for olim

By JERRY CHESLOW

Midnight May 19, 1993 passed as a packed El Al 757 streaked from Tashkent toward Israel's Ben Gurion Airport ushering in not only a new day, but also a new life for 133 immigrants from the Central Asian republics of the former Soviet Union (FSU). The passengers from Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan ranged in age from a two-week-old baby in her mother's arms, up to a 90-year-old woman who had to be helped up the stairs by her 67-year-old musician son.

The flight as one of four El Al departures per month from Uzbekistan, the world's busiest collection point for immigrants to Israel. Each month about 1,000 immigrants pass through Tashkent for Tel Aviv.

This flight was special because the passengers shared the plane with 40 American Jewish leaders of Operation Exodus, the United Jewish Appeal/Federation campaign to raise money for the emigration of Jews from the FSU.

"I sat next to a doctor who was a father of eight," related Dan Schusterman of West Palm Beach, Florida. "Although technically we were contributor and beneficiary, we were really just two people with no wall between us."

As the plane ascended into the night sky, there was a tangible dissipation of tension. The departures process in Tashkent had been emotionally charged, every step of the way. People stood outside the departure building embracing brothers and sisters whom they might never see again. A woman in her 60's had her hand-sewn canvass bag ripped apart by a customs agent who demanded that she leave a rug behind. A twelve-year-old boy and his aunt sobbed as they stood next to the passport control. They had gone through the entire clearance process only to be turned back as the rest of their family headed toward the plane. The boy had been listed on his mother's passport but she died a week earlier and the passport was no longer valid.

The passengers reached the check-in counter with an array of bags, ranging from modern, leather suitcases, to improvised sacks made of floral curtain material, to crumpled plastic shopping bags. Strollers were left at the base of the stairs to the 757, so they could be loaded into the cargo hold. Suddenly, a father carrying a toddler darted out of line to one of the strollers. He retrieved a teddy bear that had obviously been embraced to the point of losing its fur.

Child taking the "flight of dreams" from Uzbekistan to Israel.

Aboard the plane, the passengers spoke of their reasons for leaving their homes for Israel.

"I just want to live with my people," said 62-year-old Isaac Bierman, an English teacher from Kazakhstan who had persuaded his wife, daughter and son-in-law to accompany him. The family was on its way to the southern Israeli coastal town of Ashdod, where Bierman's cousins live.

Bierman also pointed out, "The economy is very bad in Kazakhstan. I want my two grandchildren to have opportunities that they would never have there."

Shalom Chardorova, the 43-year-old doctor who sat next to Dan Schusterman, said he decided to leave Uzbekistan because of growing anti-Semitism in his town of Shakhrisabt, following the collapse of the Soviet Union.

"My teenage daughters were being followed, surrounded and taunted on their way home from school," he explained. "I felt there was just no future there."

The 757 touched down at Israel's Ben Gurion airport and some of the Operation Exodus leaders began helping two elderly women, wearing babaushka headscarves, down the steps. On the tarmac, a band was playing *Hevenu Shalom Aleichem*, a traditional song of greeting. Hundreds of people waving Israeli flags handed the immigrants red carnations and pulled them into a rousing dance of the *Hora*. As the band played the Israel national anthem, *Hatikva*, which means *The Hope*, there were few dry eyes in the crowd.

Kibbutz an eye-opener for New York teenagers

[Cont'd. from page 17]

with laughter. "At first, we didn't want to dance but now we don't care, we dance anyway, we aren't embarrassed anymore. We show them how to dance!"

Each student is given a kibbutz family who 'adopts' them, explains Sean, and who eats with them on Friday nights in the dining room. In the beginning, the students were too embarrassed to sit with their adopted families. But now, says Akila, "I think they would be kind of upset if we didn't."

But it's not all milk and honey. Robert, sometimes thinks the kibbutzniks "don't really trust us. They act all timid like they expect us to be druggies and criminals, and we are not. But hey, it's good to get away from New York. I mean there are no shootouts out here."

"It would be great if young adults from all over the world could come and experience kibbutz life for a few weeks," says Ricky, who is planning to study criminal law when he finishes school. "I think it would really change things, stop some of the violence."

Jay Norwood, an 18-year-old black who wants to be a writer, notices the cultural differences between kibbutz residents and the students. "It's weird how everybody says 'hi' to you on the kibbutz, even if they don't know you," he muses.

Sean adds, "In the city you can cut corners, take the short route, just get by and not take anything too seriously. But out here people are relying on you. People expect a lot from you and if you don't get to work on time, or do what you are supposed to do, then you are letting people down. So you really feel you are part of the community."

But the students miss some things about the city. "I miss TV, video games, the radio, the food and even the New York subway," reels off Jay. Cynthia complains that she misses her mother's home cooking, "especially fried plantains," and all the students miss their friends and families.

But their kibbutz experience, says Bialer, and the time away from the inner city, has changed the group members. "They have become much more aware of other cultures, other ways of life. They are in a new challenging environment and that allows them to develop new resources," he says.

"One thing's for sure," concludes Cynthia. "When I go back I am going to have a 'kibbutz attitude' to life."

— WZPS

לשנה טובה תכתבו

SHUL RENOVATED

This tiny shul, located in the German town of Bad Neuewahr-Ahrweiler, south of Bonn, has been purchased by the municipality and is being renovated. It was built in 1874 and was almost destroyed during Kristallnacht in 1938. [Ron Csillag photo]

Memorandum chronicles Holocaust

By SHELDON KIRSHNER

Twenty-seven years have elapsed since the release of *Memorandum*, but it's still one of the finest documentaries on the Holocaust.

Screened at the recent Toronto Jewish Film Festival, *Memorandum* was directed for the National Film Board by two Canadian masters, Donald Brittain and John Spotton. "I tell you, it was not fun filming that film," confides Brittain 22 years later.

Nevertheless, *Memorandum* stands the test of time. It is as pertinent, pointed and ironic today as it was in 1966.

That was the year when a delegation of 30 Jews from North America, all Holocaust survivors, undertook a 1½ day pilgrimage to Germany to visit the former Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. Among the pilgrims was Bernard Laufer and his son, Joey, both of Toronto.

A glass cutter and a Polish Jew, Bernard Laufer was a veteran of 11 — yes, 11 — concentration camps, including Bergen-Belsen. He was relatively lucky. The rest of his family perished at the hands of the Nazis.

Taken to Germany as a slave laborer, he arrived in Bergen-Belsen three weeks before its liberation by Allied forces. Thanks to a German doctor, he survived. His brother, also an inmate, died in Bergen-Belsen.

One may wonder why Laufer bothered to revisit the scene of his travails. "Because I am alive," he told the filmmakers.

Yet *Memorandum* is more than a portrait of a gritty survivor who comes to Germany to bear witness.

It's a riveting meditation on the banality of evil.

Brittain was "absolutely appalled" by the Holocaust. So profound was its effect that Brittain, a Christian, decided he was duty-bound to translate it into a film.

In those days, National Film Board movies were reviewed by the Department of External Affairs. In its infinite wisdom, the mandarins in Ottawa vetoed the project on the grounds that it would offend Germany and inflame the Arab world.

But when the German government raised no objections, *Memorandum* went into production.

Unfolding against a background of idyllic German towns and elegant cafes, restaurants and hotel lobbies, *Memorandum* takes its title from the cold-blooded German bureaucrats-cum-war criminals who, by the stroke of a pen or by an order over the phone, condemned millions of European Jews.

The 58-minute film, which is totally unpretentious in style, is composed of a series of inter-connecting vignettes which leave a deep impression on a viewer.

After Laufer's credentials are established, *Memorandum* cuts to standard file footage of the Holocaust.

We're then transported to Auschwitz, with its infamous wall of death, gas ovens and gallows where the camp commandant was hanged after the war.

Next, we witness the fallout of a war crimes trial in Germany. In anger, some of the defendants throw objects at the camera. Brittain, the narrator, describes them as "average people in normal life." But they were anything but "average" during the war, when they "murdered by memorandum."

Not content to focus exclusively on the murderers, Brittain and Spotton interview a Jewish teacher who returned to Germany so that young Germans would have the opportunity of meeting Jews in the flesh.

In a cafe in Vienna, he interviews Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal, who ruminates about arch criminal Martin Bormann and "a few Nazi Ukrainians" who reside in Canada.

In Montreal, he talks with Jewish educator Paul Trepman, who condemns the silence of world leaders during the Holocaust.

Brittain himself is anything but silent. As he ponders the greatness of German civilization and juxtaposes it against the backdrop of the Holocaust, he asks, "Could it not happen anywhere if it could happen in the land of Schiller and Bach?"

And after several scenes of Germans frolicking in a Munich beer hall, which Adolf Hitler once frequented, Brittain's doom-laden voice asks how the Holocaust could have begun in the "happy land of Bavaria?"

Fittingly, *Memorandum* ends in Bergen-Belsen and in the adjacent town.

In Bergen, a fastidious woman washes her car and, elsewhere, parishioners, smiling, emerge from a church. Were these the same ordinary Germans who committed such ghastly crimes?

As he is driven around the bucolic countryside near the camp, a Jewish survivor observes incredulously, "Everything is green, everything is nice." And so it is. Can he not believe that such monsters could spring from this pristine landscape?

Finally, we're back in Bergen-Belsen again. The camera pans on a group of young, penitent Germans who are building an information centre and museum in Bergen-Belsen. Brittain cannot resist the jab, which is probably unfair, that they might have been members of the Hitler Jugend only a few decades earlier.

Bernard Laufer has the last word. He claims that the death toll in Bergen-Belsen has been minimized by Germans, and that Germany has turned the camp "into a garden."

Regardless of their veracity, the accusations bore into the mind, leaving a viewer with the unsettling feeling that not all is well with the world. Certainly, no other conclusion is warranted after a subtle, powerful film like *Memorandum*.

Sam & Bella Bojman

232 Strathallen Wood

Wish all their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Kalman & Cynthia Bielak
Yakov, Simcha, Shneur
Gideon & Shlomo

wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Samuel & Janet Berger

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

David and Sandy Bleeman
Amanda-Beth, Marni and Jesse

Wish all their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Maurice Blejwas

Best wishes to my children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Leo & Sarah Beliak
Marlin Ben Dayan & Michelle
Chaim & Chava Beliak
Robert, Tamara, Samantha & Dexter Beliak
Murray & Stacey Beliak
Arnold, Ruth, Elliot, Faigie & Bryan Kravetz

Wish their relatives, friends & neighbors a happy and healthy New Year.

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Wayne and Ann Caplan
Elana & Dayna

wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Best wishes for a year of peace and serenity, health and happiness to our relatives and friends and the people of Israel.

Mr. & Mrs. Harry E. Cooper

Wishing all our family and friends a happy and healthy New Year

Neil, Betty
Sari & Dani Colt

Marshall & Ella Cohen

Wish their relatives, friends & neighbors a happy and healthy New Year.

HOWARD & ELSA CHANDLER AND FAMILY

Wish their relatives, friends & neighbors a happy and healthy New Year.

Hushy & Anna Cooper
Naomi, David & Marlene

wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Isaac & Nancy Claitman

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Wishing all our family and friends a happy and healthy New Year

Leslie & Rose Cross
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Bayla & Gary

Fred & Celia Chapnick

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Lydia & Sam Charyk

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Mrs. Sylvia Ciminsky & Family

Wishing all our family and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

D's . . .

Jack Dombrow

Best wishes to my children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Helene & Reuben R. Dennis

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, friends and relatives and the people of Israel for a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

לשנה טובה תכתבו

Morris & Gloria Dadoun

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

THE DAITER FAMILY
Ronnie & Rene
Joel & Cindy, Aaron, Liane & Carey
Stephen & Tammy, Alexis & Nicole

Wish all their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Wishing all our family and friends a happy and healthy New Year

Michael & Sally Deverett
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E's . . .

Stanley & Janet Eisner

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Mrs. Sarah Elkind

Best wishes to my children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Sam & Sara Eker and Children

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4001 Bayview Avenue, Apt. 806

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Mr. & Mrs. Morris Erlichman & Family

wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

F's . . .

Chaim & Eda Feinstadt

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful holiday

Phil & Rochelle Feldberg
Jeffrey, Robyn & Adam

Wish all their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

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Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Fialkov and Family

Jerry, Miriam, Tamara
Sharona, Ronit, Meir Faivish

wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Ruth Figa
Hyla & Arnold Perel
Steven, Bryna & Yosepha
Marsha & Howard Basest
Hailey & Jonathan
Sheryl & Irv Bielas
Janna & Cassandra

Wish all their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Mr. & Mrs. Martin Fishman
Michelle, Danielle and Adam

wish their family and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Dr. & Mrs. Steven Frohlich
Simon & Arie

wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

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Wish their relatives, friends & neighbors a happy and healthy New Year.

Sylvia & Edward Fisch and family

wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Philip & Cyla Fiksel
Nathan, Miriam, Jaimie & Stacie Birnbaum

wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Grandparents play role in mixed marriages

By MAURICE LUCOW

Grandmothers should expose grandchildren in an inter-faith marriage to Judaism, as long as the parents agree and as long as no attempt is made to convert the kids, says Annette Wigod, a Victoria family counsellor.

Wigod speaks from personal experience as she has two grandchildren in an inter-faith marriage situation. Two of her own four daughters are in mixed marriages and a son married a woman who converted to Judaism. The grandchildren are aged nine and six years.

"I want to help my grandchildren understand my own and their heritage," she told The CJN in a recent interview. "I want them to experience Jewish tradition — even a little, and have some feeling for it. But at the same time I don't want to offend or upset the parents and I make sure I have their agreement in what I am trying to do."

Although she doesn't necessarily practice the method herself, she said sometimes it's useful to give parents a written outline of the grandmother's plans "to assure them you're not proseltyzing. If parents have something in writing they can see for themselves that you are not surreptitiously trying to indoctrinate the children with certain beliefs."

Annette Wigod

She was "very touched" also by the fact that her son-in-law and daughter named the boy Samuel, after Wigod's father.

The matter of a bar and bat mitzvah hasn't been discussed yet, Wigod said, "because it's the parents' decision whether the children get a religious or secular education." But she will be asking her daughter to consider having the children study Hebrew for at least a year. She emphasizes, though, that "you have to respect the right of your children to bring up their children in whatever way they want to."

Above all, she said, grandparents must relate in a loving, positive and complete way to their grandchildren, especially when they are in an inter-faith marriage.

Wigod came to Canada from Boston, where she got a Masters degree in literature at Harvard. She joined her husband in Canada when he got a post with the University of British Columbia, where he is a professor of English.

Looking around for a career when the family got older, Wigod decided to "professionalize the most successful and happiest experience of my life — raising a family." She took a family counselling course at UBC and got her MSW. She worked in Vancouver for the Jewish Family Service as a social worker and then as director.

Sabbath candles lit

Wigod's grandchildren live in Vancouver and when they come to visit her every couple of months, it's usually on a Friday evening, when the Sabbath candles have been lit. She carefully explains to them that the candles are lighted on Friday nights to welcome in the Sabbath. "Often they ask me to light the candles again for them so they can watch how I do it and listen to the prayers," she said. "I'm always happy to oblige."

At Passover she conducts a seder for the whole family in Vancouver and once, when a seder couldn't be arranged, she held a "mini seder" at lunch time, and she provided child-sized haggadahs for the children. The daughters appreciated this and told her: "Thanks, mother, for bringing the holiday to us."

Chanukah is a specially happy time for the children. Wigod tells them the Chanukah story and gives them gifts. They also get Christmas gifts from the father's family, who live in New Zealand, so they get the benefits of both faiths.

Wigod says she practices what she teaches the children. Her kitchen is kosher and she doesn't serve milk with meat. "They may not be fully aware of this," she said, "because they're still young, and because basically my kitchen is vegetarian. But as they get older they will realize the difference of a kosher kitchen."

She has also taken them to the synagogue and on occasion to a child's version of a Sabbath service, conducted by the rabbi's wife.

Wigod hopes the parents will encourage the children to learn Hebrew "so they won't be total outsiders in the synagogue and at least be familiar with the language if they are in a Hebrew-speaking situation."

She's not sure how their exposure to Judaism will affect the children in the future, especially because religion is not a strong factor in their parents' home. However, she thinks the Judaic influence may be rubbing off on the kids because young Samuel once told her that "there are only two other Jewish kids in my class besides me. I was interested that he identified himself as Jewish."

Involved in family counselling

In Victoria, she is involved in family counselling and conducts workshops at commercial colleges. She also does employment counselling for people over 45.

But above all, she is trying to get a message across to grandparents that "there's no substitute for spending time with your grandchildren when they're very young. The more often people see each other, the more comfortable they are with each other. So it is with the grandchildren."

She added that she has no hesitation to go over to Vancouver to babysit. "It's something I do cheerfully."

To grandparents of children of mixed marriages she recommends the book, Mingled Roots, by Sunie Levin. It's the result of a study commissioned by B'nai B'rith Women in the United States in 1989. In a foreword to the book, Joan Kort, the current president of BBW, says the survey revealed BBW members "would rather see their adult children marry a non-Jew than not marry at all; that they fervently want their grandchildren to be raised as Jews; and that they were clearly dissatisfied with the Jewish community's response to intermarriage."

לשנה טובה תכתבו

A group of participants in "Project Young People" visit an army base in northern Israel. [WZPS photo]

Tourists, immigrants 'join' the Israeli army

By AVA CARMEL

The 37 young men and women are dressed in slightly rumpled khaki uniforms emblazoned with the emblem of the Israel Defence Forces (I.D.F.). But instead of army boots, most are wearing running shoes. And quite a few have walkmen in their pockets and headphones around their necks.

This is "Project Young People," a new five-day program for new immigrants and tourists run jointly by the I.D.F. and the Jewish Agency.

"The army is an integral part of Israeli society," says Dan Biron, Director of the Aliya and Absorption Department's Young Adult Section for the Jewish Agency. "We want to give both tourists and immigrant youth the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the I.D.F. and the country."

Rooming at the Tiberias Absorption Center, participants tour army bases, outposts and sights of historical interest, and take part in military exercises. Those in the present group — the project's sixth — come from Mexico, South America and the former Soviet Union.

"Some of them are tourists on kibbutz programs, so this is an opportunity for them to consider returning to Israel and serving in the army. We see them as potential immigrants," says Biron. "Many of the new immigrants, mostly from the former Soviet Union, will be drafted for two or three years. The program will give them some idea of what to expect, calm their fears and broaden their image of what a soldier is and does."

Sasha Ostrovsky, 22, a husky young man from Moscow, compares the I.D.F. to the Red Army. "The Russian uniforms are more comfortable and I am fascinated by the M16 rifle, although it is inferior to the Kalatchnikov." What particularly impresses him is Israeli officers' fair treatment of their soldiers.

Joined program for fun

"They even trust their soldiers to take their weapons home when they go on leave."

Some of the participants joined the program just for the fun of it. Della Hamra Dana, for example, a vivacious 23-year-old from Mexico, says "I am so excited wearing a uniform, and am very impressed at how hard the women soldiers work."

Colonel Yossi Farchi, the driving force behind the project, says that the I.D.F. has a different meaning to participants after the program. "When they arrive, some are totally indifferent, but by the time they leave, they are so enthusiastic they want to enlist."

Impressed by army

David Nahman, 21, from Uruguay, for example, started out for a good time, but has decided to serve in the I.D.F. Impressed by the army hierarchy and the base's organization, his Hebrew vocabulary now includes words like "cannon," "tank," "armoured vehicle," "bunker" and "outpost."

Program participants tour the Galilee and the Golan, where the story of Israel's wars come alive: at Gamla, where 9,000 Jews committed suicide rather than fall into Roman hands, in a bloody battle with the Roman army in 67 C.E., and at Tel Hai, where in 1920 Joseph Trumpeldor died defending the Jewish settlements of Upper Galilee. The drive up the winding road from Kibbutz Gadot to the Golan Heights to see Syria's pre-1967 commanding position over the Hula and the Jordan Valleys, gives the participants a clearer idea of Israel's security needs. So, too, does their visit to the Lebanese border crossing point and outpost positions.

At the various air force and navy bases, they hear lectures on army structure and army slang, an entire language of acronyms. They explore the inside of airplanes, boats and tanks, eat in the army dining room and talk with new immigrant soldiers.

In a plain room at one I.D.F. training camp, they are divided into two groups, each gathered around a girl soldier explaining how to take apart and clean an M16 rifle, her words translated into Russian or Spanish.

At week's end, the program participants are given an opportunity to air their complaints. "There wasn't enough food at breakfast," griped one. Another was annoyed at being treated like a child when crossing the road.

But when asked what the program gave them personally, one young Ethiopian answered, "I have dreamed of coming to Israel and I am finally here. This week I saw and felt that people were killed fighting for the Jewish people, for the State, so Jews could live here."

— WZPS

Joe & Marlene Flicht
Melanie & Jason
Elyse & Shelly Einhorn
wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Best wishes for a year of peace and serenity, health and happiness to our relatives and friends and the people of Israel.
Betsy, Lou & Lisa Fruitman
Pamela & Howie Gould
Marla & Brian Segal

Best wishes for a year of peace and serenity, health and happiness to our relatives and friends and the people of Israel
The Finkelsteins
Henry, Molly, David & Matthew

Jerry & Helen Fishman
Mark & Doreen, Aimee, Haley & Stacy Fishman
Gary & Sheryl, Robbie & Raquel Rubinoff
Len & Marcy & Ryan Susman
Wish their relatives, friends & neighbors a happy and healthy New Year.

Allan & Pat Friedland
Jeffrey & Marla
wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Best wishes for a year of peace and serenity, health and happiness to our relatives and friends and the people of Israel.
Esther Freiman & Family

Perez & Frieda Friedberg
2600 Bathurst
Wish all their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Fox
Felicia & Warren Spigelman and Charise Fox
wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy Shana Tova.

G's . . .

Rae and Sam Goldberg
Debbie, Sol & Esther
wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Ruth & Ernest Goldsmith
543 Fairlawn Avenue
Wish all their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Mori Goldlist
wishes family and friends a happy and Healthy New Year
Special wishes to daughter
Jordanna

Wishing all our family and friends a happy and healthy New Year.
Beatrice, Hymie & Alyssa Guttman

Wishing all my family and friends a happy and healthy New Year
Laura Greenberg
2220 Halifax Dr., Apt. 911
Ottawa, Ont. K1G 2W7

David, Gert & Jill Goldberg
64 Carscadden Drive
Wish their relatives, friends & neighbors a happy and healthy New Year.

Best wishes for a year of peace and serenity, health and happiness to our relatives and friends and the people of Israel.
Mr. & Mrs. Israel Goldgrub and Family

Anne Gottlieb
Drs. Marc & Beth Gottlieb
Wish their relatives, friends & neighbors a happy and healthy New Year.

Bella & Willy Goldstein
Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Sylvia, Harvey, Ashley, & Logan Gefen
wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Best wishes for a year of peace and serenity, health and happiness to our relatives and friends and the people of Israel.
Max and Gutka Glicksman

לשנה טובה תכתבו

Bessie Gotkin
Ellen, Tom, Amanda & Natalie Blau
Gloria, Joel, Elysse, Jennifer & Adam Clamen
Wish their relatives, friends & neighbors a happy and healthy New Year.

Best wishes for a year of peace and serenity, health and happiness to our relatives and friends and the people of Israel.
Fay Goldlist
Marlene & Sam Hait
Barry & Randee Goldlist
Rochelle & Seymour Frydrych and Families

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Gladstone and Neil
Dr. & Mrs. Terry Davis and family
Wish their relatives, friends & neighbors a happy and healthy New Year.

Annie Goldlist
Best wishes my children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Charles & Charlotte Goldlist
Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Leo and Sarah Goldstein & Family
Wish all their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Goldfinger and Family
Best wishes to our children grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year

Joseph, Nina & David Glincman
Wish their relatives, friends & neighbors a happy and healthy New Year.

Mr. & Mrs. Sam Grad
9 Beaver Valley Road
Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy& peaceful New Year.
לשנה טובה תכתבו

The Gotkin Group
Jerry & Frances
Michael, Jody, Shane & Zachary
Stephen & Sam
Wish all their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Mr. & Mrs. Izzy Goldlist
Barry and Paul
wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Irving & Paula Goldhar
Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Mr. & Mrs. Henry Goldberg
Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Morris & Ada Rose Glick
Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

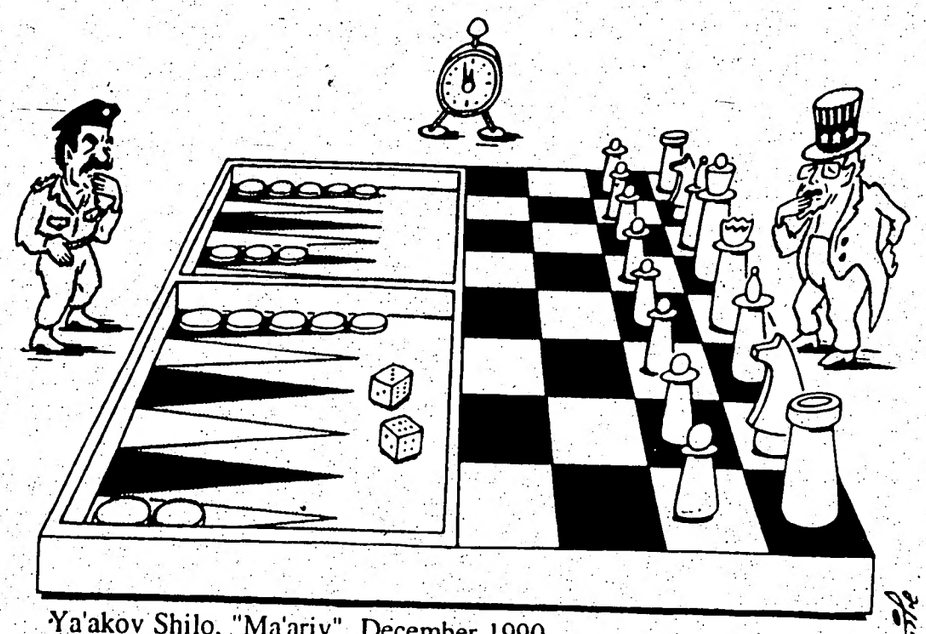
Jack & Ruth Gutholc
Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Best wishes for a year of peace and serenity, health and happiness to our relatives and friends and the people of Israel.
Sarah & Nathan Goldlist

John & Felice Gropper
Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Best wishes for a year of peace and serenity, health and happiness to our relatives and friends and the people of Israel.
Moishe & Mania Gruda

Leon & Nina Goldstein
Wish all their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.



Ya'akov Shilo, "Ma'ariv", December 1990

Cartoonists mount exhibit

By GEORGE POROCHNIK

Imagine seeing Yitzhak Rabin, Saddam Hussein, Bill and Hilary Rodhame Clinton, Moses, Isaac and Shulamit Aloni all together in a single room. Sounds like a dream or a nightmare? Well, in Jerusalem between the Ides of March and the end of Passover, such a thing was actually possible. This convention occured not in flesh, but rather, as it were, the caricature. The Israeli Cartoonist Association was holding its first ever exhibition, "Shpitz (Point) '93."

For almost a month the walls of the venerable old Jerusalem Artists House were filled with some 300 inked images of newsmakers — recent and ancient, hallowed and hellish — and the result was without doubt one of the most powerful collective visions to come out of the contemporary Israeli arts scene.

Much of the motivation for mounting the show at this time, was to inform the public of the newly formed association. Thirty-two Israeli cartoonists already belong to the organization, and Nissim Yehizkiyahu, the current chair, says he expects all Israel's cartoonists to join eventually.

Initial resistance came mostly from the older generation of cartoonists like Yaakov Kirschen, author and artist of the internationally syndicated cartoon "Dry Bones." Kirschen admitted quite frankly that his initial reaction to the association was that it was a waste of time. "I felt the younger cartoonists were overly concerned with keeping up with their American and continental counterparts," he said.

However, a reluctant Kirschen attended the inaugural meetings and has since gone from receptive to downright enthusiastic. "It's fun — getting together around one table to drink coffee and talk with other people working in your field. There was never anything like it before in Israel. And if we can get the occasional exhibition or magazine together, that's just great."

Works by 30 of the association's 32 members were exhibited at this first showing. Given licence to choose 10 caricatures from any phase of their work, the overwhelming majority chose work from the past two or three years. Despite the preponderance of works with an overly political message, says Yehizkiyahu, the main idea is to show the range of topics tackled by Israel's cartoonists and their respective perspectives.

Many of the cartoonists themselves arrived at their chosen profession by paths no less diverse than the topics they cover. American-born political caricaturist Avi Katz, for example, took notes in comic strip form in his high school Talmud class. One day the teacher spotted the incriminating drawings and furiously snatched them away. He examined Katz's fledgling artworks more closely, began to smile, then to chuckle, then to laugh out loud. Finally he xeroxed the cartoons and passed them round to the whole class.

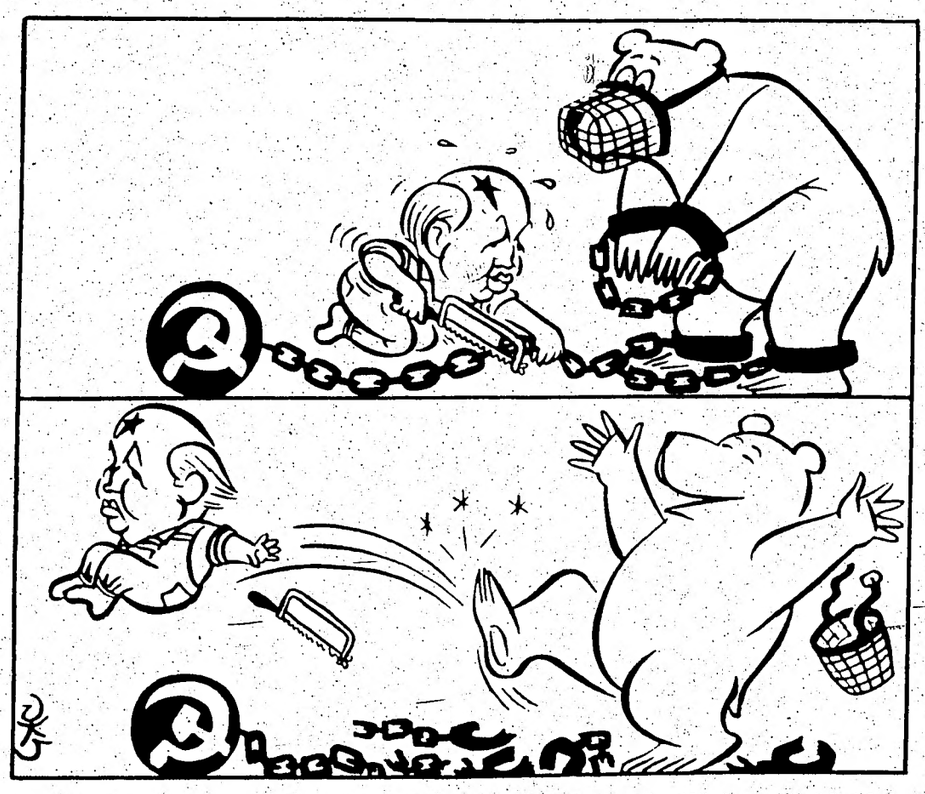
Ido Amin, an Israeli-born cartoonist recalls starting a comic journal at 17 that resulted in his arrest and imprisonment. To this day he remains unsure as to the precise reason for the violence of the reaction he produced, but the experience was enough to make him abandon cartooning for many years: "I guess I knew that what I did was too harsh for the times," he says.

Though his present work does not appear poilitical, Amin himself feels it is. "Of course it's political," he says. "Everything in Israel is political. It's also a little vicious, but we live in such a harsh and vicious world."

Caricaturist Ya'akov Farkash (Ze'ev) won this year's Israel Prize. Ze'ev began drawing as a means of avoiding the censor in the Hungarian labor camp where he was imprisoned during World War II. After arriving in Israel in 1947, he began working as a caricaturist for the daily *Ma'ariv* and since 1962 has been with the daily *Ha'aretz*.

Kirschen, who began work as a cartoonist for *Playboy* magazine in the early sixties, feels that "cartoons are even more important for Jews than they are for anyone else. The classic anti-Semitic images of Jews in Nazi caricatures helped in reconciling the non-Jewish public to what the Nazis were doing. That's how powerful cartoons are. And that's why as an Israeli I feel I have to do caricatures showing our point of view."

Yehizkiyahu sees a bright side to the almost overwhelmingly "loaded" position in which Israel cartoonists find themselves. "We should consider ourselves lucky. Israeli politics makes a lot of work for us and history is made here nearly every day." (WZPS)



Ze'ev (Ya'akov Farkash), "Ha'aretz", 23.12.91

לשנה טובה תכתבו

Igor and Helena Nikon. [WZPS photo]

Dance champions tango in Israel

By JON ELKINS

In Israel, a country famous for its informal attitudes, ballroom dancing may seem as out of place as a tie and jacket. However, Igor and Helena Nikon, a pair of champion ballroom dancers from the former Soviet Union, are spreading the word about the splendors of the foxtrot, the tango, the waltz and the rumba, and Israelis are catching on quickly.

An engineer by profession, Igor fell in love with ballroom dancing and joined a dance troupe in Ludsk, eastern Ukraine, where Helena was studying ballet and choreography.

They met at the Lvovsk dance company, but it was far from love at first sight. "Because I was younger by almost eight years, I didn't want to dance with him. But my teacher told me I must. When we did, though, it was magic."

The Nikons were married soon after and began to work professionally, performing throughout the USSR. Despite tough competition, they placed second in national ballroom competitions in Ludsk and Kishinov, and third in Minsk.

But despite their success, there were many difficulties. "As Jews, it was impossible to get permission to travel and participate in international competitions. And without the reputation this brings, one cannot become a renowned teacher."

When the immigration restrictions in Russia eased, Igor and Helena decided to make aliyah. "We wanted to feel how it would be where everyone is Jewish," says Helena.

In Israel at last, the Nikons were determined to earn a living as dancers. But within a month, the Gulf War began. The Bat Sheva Dance Troupe very generously offered the Nikons a bomb-safe studio when they could practice and keep in shape. "We've only met good people here in Israel," says Helena.

As soon as the war ended, the Nikons went to work, taking first place in the Latina competition in Israel's first ballroom dancing championship. The 100 spectators turned to 600 duing the second national championships, in which the Nikons placed third.

Their classes are equally successful. Mark and Aviva Zuckerman, discovered the pleasures of ballroom dancing while on a cruise and joined the Nikon's class on their return. "They're fun and Igor and Helena have tremendous patience," says Aviva.

Efraim and Aviva Schymkiewitz saw the Nikons performing on television and decided to sign up for classes. "We are not young enough to become professionals, but we find the classes fun," says Efraim. According to the Nikons, Israelis are quick students. "They are very talented," says Helena. "Particularly the children. In a few years some of them could probably attain inernational status."

Happy to have succeeded in country

Igor and Helena themselves also long to compete in international status."

Igor and Helena themselves also long to compete in international competition. "If we work hard, we'll succeed," says Helena. They also plan to form a troupe consisting exclusively of Israelis, and are arranging a ball for their students, complete with tuxedos and gowns.

They are happy to have succeeded in their new country, and, it seems, the Israelis are glad to have them. The once informal Israelis are having a ball.— WZPS

The Gotfried Family

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Sam & Eileen Grossman

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Sam & Gitta Ganz
Children & Grandchildren

wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Best wishes & L'shana Tova for a healthy & prosperous New Year to our family, friends & clients

Sonny & Edie Goldstein
Michelle, Shari & Rebecca

Cantor Morris & Sonia Goldlust

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Irving & Faye Gold

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Ben & Celia Goldglas
Steven, Carolynne, Zachary,
Jessie & Samara Goldglas
Mark & Francis Altow

Wish their relatives, friends & neighbors a happy and healthy New Year.

Norm & Joyce Goldstein
Ilaina & Jaimie

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Wish their relatives, friends & neighbors a happy and healthy New Year.

H's . . .

Wishing all our family and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

The Hefner Family

17 Krieger Crescent

Wishing all our family and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

The Henechowicz Family

123 Westgate Blvd.

Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Hochman

49 Sultana Avenue

wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Wishing all our family and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Sonia, Yehudi & Jeff Hendler
Sindi, Joel & Fern Kachuck

I's . . .

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Isakow and Family

10 Barksdale Avenue

wish their relatives, friends & neighbors a happy and healthy New Year.

Mr. & Mrs. David Igra
Joanne and Irwin Igra

wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Larry & Bunny Iskov
Howie & Rachel

wish their family and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

The Ingber Family

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

J's . . .

Family Jedrzejak

wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

The Jacobs Family

131 Torresdale Ave., Apt. 1207

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Joe & Cypora Jonsson
Adam & Rachel

29 Winborne, Thornhill

Wish their relatives, friends & neighbors a happy and healthy New Year.

לשנה טובה תכתבו

Isaac & Batia Jesin & Family

wish all our friends & extended families a Healthy, Happy & Prosperous New Year.

Wolf & Fela Jaskolka

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

K's . . .

David & Anita Katz
Jordana and Michael

199 Glenmanor Way

Wish their relatives, friends & neighbors a happy and healthy New Year.

Golda & David Kazdan and Jack Kazdan
Rose & Larry Ross and Family

Wish their relatives, friends & neighbors a happy and healthy New Year.

Mr. & Mrs. Morris Kazman

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Wishing all our family and friends a happy and healthy New Year

Ruth Kerbel and daughter Donna

BEST WISHES FOR A YEAR OF PEACE AND SERENITY, HEALTH AND HAPPINESS TO OUR CHILDREN, MACHATONIM, RELATIVES, FRIENDS AND THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL.

Joe & Jean Kichler

Bernyce & Marvin Kalifer & their children & grandchildren

Wish their friends & families a peaceful, healthy & happy New Year.

Dora, Harry, Andrew & Jonathan Kichler

Wish all their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Betty & Izzy Kirshenbaum

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

שנת שלום

Mara & Eugene Katz
Linda, Leon, Michael & Aaron Katz

wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Mr. & Mrs. Leo Kon

wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Harry & Lucy Kreitzman

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Helen Krieser
Robert & Regina
Alisse, Jodi & Brian Lee

Wish all their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

MARILYN KOSTMAN & Family

Best wishes for a year of Peace and Serenity, Health & Happiness to our Relatives and Friends

Lucy Klein and Sons

45 Arlstan Drive

Wish their relatives, friends & neighbors a happy and healthy New Year.

Mr. & Mrs. Israel Koplowitz & Family
& Mrs. Rifka Pozmanter

Best wishes for a year of peace and serenity, health and happiness to our relatives and friends

Best wishes for a year of peace and serenity, health and happiness to our relatives and friends and the people of Israel.

Al & Rivka Kochen

Ethiopian immigrants confound doctors with health problems

By SHARON KANON

"My head hurts, maybe it's because of my tooth. My stomach also hurts, and so does my heart," bemoaned the young Ethiopian woman. The nurse at Hadassah's Center for Community Health in the Jerusalem neighborhood of Kiryat Yovel was confounded. So many diverse complaints at the same time.

She asked the patient to describe her problems in more detail. "I'm alone here. My husband died," said the woman. "My father and sisters are in Ethiopia and I long for them."

"When we first started treating Ethiopians, and they complained about pains in the heart and stomach, we took them literally," said Pnina Naveh, the clinic's head nurse. "Then we began to realize that they internalized all their problems and felt them as actual pains in the body. Now we have a better understanding.

Avraham Yitzhak, now a medical student at Ben Gurion University, helped bridge the cultural gap between the medical staff and the Ethiopian immigrants. "I was translating from Amharic to Hebrew and back, but I was also trying to translate cultural codes," recalled Yitzhak, who completed three years at the Addis Ababa Medical School before joining his parents in Israel. "If a woman said that her abdomen hurt, the doctor might suggest Maalox. In fact, the woman could really be saying that she has an infertility problem.

"When an Ethiopian says: 'I have a pain in my heart,' he doesn't usually need a cardiologist. What he is saying is that he is very sad and his heart is heavy. One patient said desperately, 'My pain is blood'," related Yitzhak. "The belief that bad blood should be removed to cure a sickness is part of the psychological, cultural tradition," he said.

In fact, Ethiopian culture views physical pain as spiritual intervention; as "punishment from God." According to Naveh, when physical pain is especially acute, it is believed that Satan or a spirit has entered the body. To relieve pain, the Beta Israel frequently asked the doctor to be blood-let.

"Ethiopians lack knowledge of anatomy, physiology and disease," said Dr. Benjamin Wondemeneh, an Ethiopian now living in Israel, who was sent by former Ethiopian President Haile Selasie to Moscow to study medicine, and went on to Sweden to study psychiatry. "Somatization — in which emotional problems are expressed by the body — is a result of the Ethiopian cultural code," he explained. "They believe in tolerating extreme suffering without losing patience or showing emotion, and without telling anybody. Their problems are not communicated, they are accumulated in the stomach.

"When 14,000 Ethiopian Jews arrived in Israel in Operation Solomon in 1991," continued Naveh, "we had no concept of their culture. We discovered very quickly that translating their language was not enough." In Ethiopian culture, for example, it is a breach of ethics to ask direct questions. "It's simply not proper," said Naveh.

Telling an Ethiopian woman she has a serious illness is also unacceptable. "One man was very angry when we told his wife that she needed an operation. The husband must be told first."

Health workers found that separate group meetings for men and women on treating tuberculosis and nutrition were more successful than joint meetings. Women don't ask questions or participate in meetings with men present.

These days, according to veteran Ethiopian community worker Benny Nadav, "The younger people are getting used to the health system in Israel and taking medication. But the older Ethiopians still feel more comfortable with traditional healing methods."

Injections are often requested by patients. "When the Italians colonized Ethiopia, they introduced penicillin injections for syphillis," explained Yitzhak. "The powerful effect left a great impact on the people."

Dr. Michael Alkan, head of the Infectious Diseases Department of Soroka Hospital in Beersheva, also chairs the Association for the Advancement of the Ethiopian Family and Child (AAEFC). "In Ethiopia, there were three types of traditional healers besides the medic or doctor," said Alkan. "The herbal or folk doctor, the daftara who writes amulets, and the zarchaser or bal-a-zar." Balazar is a combination of two Hebrew words, possessor and foreign. He literally chases the evil spirit away. "Now that there is no healer or exorcist, Kupat Holim [Israel's national health fund] has to fill the role," noted Alkan.

Ethiopians frequently run to the doctor with a host of ambiguous complaints. And, according to Nadav, "they expect to be diagnosed at once with a specific illness. If, after tests, nothing is found, both young and old Ethiopians tend to turn to traditional methods."

"Health issues have to be handled very delicately," adds Alkan, which is why the AAEFC is training Ethiopian community workers to work with the new immigrants on medical concerns."

Wondemeneh believes culture shock has created acute psychological problems among Ethiopians in Israel. But he is hopeful that as this introverted people becomes more Western and open about its problems, psychosomatic illness will diminish.

But other ailments will likely take their place — migraines, hypertension, cardiac deficiency and ulcers. Raseh, lubeh, hodeh — my head, my heart and my stomach — might very well remain the problems that bring an Ethiopian to the doctor.

— WZPS

An Ethiopian woman having her blood pressure checked upon arriving in Israel in Operation Solomon, May 1991. [WZPS photo]

לשנה טובה תכתבו

Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir's "historic" meeting with Pope Paul VI at the Vatican on January 15, 1973. Shortly after, the Vatican spokesman issued a statement stressing that the meeting had taken place at Meir's request, and that there was not "the slightest change" in the Holy See's position towards Israel. [WZPS photo]

'Wind of change' seen for Israel-Vatican ties

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Few issues are more emotion laden than that of relations between the Catholic Church and the State of Israel, and yet there are few issues today which give observers more reason for hope that we are on the threshold of a new era.

"There is a wind of change in relations between the Vatican and Israel," said Avi Pazner, Israel's Ambassador to Rome, prior to a meeting between Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Pope John Paul II at the Vatican in October 1992.

After the meeting, Peres himself said he thought it would be "a matter of months, one or two years at the most" before Israel and the Vatican exchanged ambassadors.

The issue actually began with the meeting between Theodor Herzl and Pope Pius X in 1904. "The Jews have not recognized our Lord, therefore we cannot recognize the Jewish People," Herzl recorded the Pope as saying.

Indeed, for centuries, Roman Catholic children were taught that the Jews were collectively responsible for the Crucifixion and that the Exile and Diaspora were their punishment.

"This people will be torn from their land . . . scattered through the world . . . under the burden of a divine curse which will accompany them through the course of history," one Italian Catholic textbook said. This background of hatred made all the more impressive the Second Vatican Council of 1965, which called upon Christians to see Judaism in a new and positive light, the Roman Catholic Church expunged anti-Jewish teachings from its textbooks and prayers and, in 1986, Pope Paul II visited the main synagogue of Rome.

However, for many Jews, such gestures remained empty as long as the Vatican refused to establish full diplomatic relations with the State of Israel. The Church, for its part, stated categorically that there were no theological barriers to full diplomatic relations with the State of Israel, but in the light of history, many Jews remained unconvinced. The Catholics maintained that such relations would imperil Catholics and other Christians throughout the Arab world.

This was to change as a result of the new international climate following the Gulf War, in which scores of countries from Eastern Europe and the Third World exchanged ambassadors with Israel, and the Arab states themselves began to negotiate with Israel as part of the Mideast Peace Process. For the Roman Catholic Church, it became clear that non-recognition could mean it would have no say in crucial decisions being made about the Holy Land.

At first, there were tentative and secret meetings between Avi Pazner, then Israel's ambassador in Rome, and Vatican officials. Then, last July, the Holy See published an official communique, announcing the establishment of a bilateral commission. According to the Vatican spokesman, Joachim Navarro-Valls, the purpose of this commission was to "establish conditions of freedom for the Catholic Church in Israel and the areas occupied by Israel. The re-establishment (sic) of diplomatic relations must be seen as a consequence of this priority."

Anticipating a negative reaction from Arab sources Navarro-Vlais noted that "Palestinians affiliated with the PLO are formally meeting with Israelis, why shouldn't we?"

Despite the disclaimer, Latin Patriarch Michel Sabbah and Greek Catholic Bishop Lutfi Laham, both signed a letter together with the Anglican bishop of Jerusalem and the Moslem grand mufti, saying that the talks "should not overlook the historical Arab sovereignty over the city."

Vatican officials, on the other hand, rejected the idea that the talks had to deal with any "political issues," such as the status of Jerusalem. Archbishop Andrea Cordero Lanza di Montezemolo, the Apostolic Delegate in Jerusalem and the top-ranking Vatican diplomat in the area said in an interview that the commission would only discuss issues which were of interest to Israel and the Catholic Church. "Political issues should be decided by those involved," he said.

It was not only Arabs who objected to the talks. While Israeli officials and world Jewish leaders have stressed the importance of relations in improving Israel's international status and in fighting anti-Semitism, some Israeli Jews, including Rabbi Eliezer Schach, one of the most influential ultra-Orthodox leaders, have asked why such relations were necessary.

On a practical level, the talks have been conducted by a commission, under the joint chairmanship of Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin and the Vatican Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Msgr. Claudio Maria Celli. Preparing the groundwork for the commission are working committees which deal with such issues as the legal status of the church, education, taxation and pilgrimage. In some areas, the talks have gone easily, with quick agreement, while on other issues, such as the degree to which Church institutions should be exempt from taxation, there have been more difficulties.

It appears likely that at first there will be an exchange of representatives at a level lower than ambassadorial. However, this may prove no obstacle to another result of an agreement, a visit to Israel by the Pope. This, at the very least, would give an enormous boost to Israel's tourist industry.

Establishment of diplomatic relations, or a papal visit, would also bring great satisfaction to the many Catholics who have worked for years to further Christian-Jewish dialogue. One of these, sister Kaye MacDonald, Superior for the Middle East, of the Sisters of Zion, said it "would be a real encouragement for deeper and more solid Jewish-Christian relations everywhere in the world." —

However, she also warned that Israel should not hold its breath. "If I know the Vatican, it will be slow and careful," she said. — WZPS

Best wishes for a year of peace and serenity, health and happiness to our relatives and friends and the people of Israel.

The Koltun Family

Nancy & Howard Kleinberg children & grandchildren

wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Izak & Regina Kozlowski and Family

wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Rita, Tom & Brandon Kolin

Wish their relatives, friends & neighbors a happy and healthy New Year.

Wishing all our family and friends a happy and healthy New Year

Charles, Jordan, Helene & Jerry Korn

Leonard & Joyce Krieser Ryan, Shawn & Cody

wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Blossom Klein & Family

wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

KAY & KELLY KLERER

196 Torresdale Avenue, Willowdale, Ontario

wish all their children

Shawn & Marsha, Howard & Heidi
Joel & Pamela
grandchildren Marc, Seth & Daniel
family & friends

a Healthy, Happy and Peaceful coming year

Mr. & Mrs. Harry Kranc
Joel, Steven & Jennifer, Phyllis
Michael, Mark, Moishe & Jason

Wish their relatives, friends & neighbors a happy and healthy New Year.

Jack and Racheal Krybus

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Wishing all our family and friends a happy and healthy New Year

Susie & Murray Klein
David, Robbie & Jamie

Carolyn & Danny Kayfetz
Bonnie, Benjamin, Alana & Elise

wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

L's . . .

Sarah & Simon Laski

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Herb & Gloria Landis and sons, Martin & Stuart

wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Wishing all our family and friends a happy and healthy New Year

Max, Shirley, Shaun & Rozanne Lacob

Natalie & Manny Langer
Lenna, Arnie, Blayne & Brittany Gross
Darlene, Larry, Lynsey & Terra Wronzberg
Gail & David Gluckman

Wish all their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Sonia & Ben Lant

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Shelly & Marilyn Little
Adam, Jeremy & Sari

Wish their relatives, friends & neighbors a happy and healthy New Year.

Louis & Yetta Laterman

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

לשנה טובה תכתבו

Yetta Lanys
Marty & Sandy Lanys
Shawn & Jana
Shane & Patricia Lanys
Tiffany & Lori
Best wishes to all our friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Roman Lichtblau
Best wishes to my children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Jack & Rose Lipszyc
Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Murrey & Helen Lazer
wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Best wishes for a year of peace and serenity, health and happiness to our relatives and friends.
Ronnie, Risa and Mark Litwin

M's . . .

Mrs. J. Lapides
Phil & Louise
wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Mendlewitz
Shirley & Jamie
wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Dave & Betty Little and Family
Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Ernie & Goldie Marmurek
children & grandchildren
wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Laurie & David Leifer and Family
wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Alice & Morris Macarz
Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

I wish my family and friends a happy and healthy New Year
Mary Levitt

Carl & Sylvia Mahler
Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Vicki & Syd Lanys
Michael, Sheryl, Sheldon,
Lindsay Sarah & Sean David
wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Mr. & Mrs. Seymour Marcus
Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Saul & Fela Lichtblau
Rena, Hartley & Mark
Wish all their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Best wishes for a year of peace and serenity, health and happiness to our relatives and friends and the people of Israel.
Olga & Sam Meister

Wishing all our family and friends a happy and healthy New Year
Marilyn, Bruce, Erin, Michael & Brian Lubelsky

Sharon & Bob Meister
Mark, Evan & Paul
Wishing all our family and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Computer hacker finds Holocaust data

By MAURICE LUCOW

Synagogue bulletins are not normally the source of feature stories, but Koleinu, the monthly bulletin of Victoria's Congregation Emanu-El, recently carried a story that fascinated me.

It was by one of the congregants, Richard Kool, who works in the provincial department of environment and who was a schoolteacher now aiming at getting his doctorate in Educational Leadership.

Kool's favorite hobby is his computer and as a member of the Victoria Free-Net, part of a North American network of computer fans, accessed Youngstown, Ohio one evening and found on the "menu" that there was comprehensive information about Judaism.

"After poking around at the Bytes of Torah (a byte is a computer term for a unit of information) and other interesting topics, I was drawn to the Holocaust Document file," he says.

When he went into the file "I found it unbelievable — there were thousands of records of names, dates, places, people-documents all relating to the horror of the Holocaust, all on-line and all available through my computer."

But the big surprise, said Kool, was to find out that this valuable resource was put together by Ken McVay, who is not Jewish, who lives in Ladysmith, B.C., about 50 miles north of Victoria.

McVay is "not even remotely Jewish," said Kool. He's an ex-American who works with computers and has a hatred of fascism and racism. His motivation for his work came from his experience with neo-Nazi hate literature found on-line. "What grew out of this hatred are two databases, one dealing with keeping track of contemporary neo-Nazis and fascists, and the other that has the extensive files on the Holocaust." Articles by Toronto's Emil Fackenheim are included.

Getting requests for data

I phoned McVay to get more information about his work and he assured me that it's all voluntary, although it cost him thousands of hard-earned dollars for the necessary equipment and research. At age 53, he goes to a community college in Nanaimo by day, and works at night. Somehow, in-between, he manages to type out the information for the Free-Net.

McVay moved to Canada from California about 18 months ago and when he first viewed information on his computer screen about Holocaust-denying, he thought it must be a joke, but when he started to read about it in the local newspapers (especially about David Irving's arrest in Victoria) he realized it was a serious matter.

Having read "everything I could get my hands on" about the Holocaust he started putting together information about it to provide "irrefutable evidence" that the deniers were frauds. "These people offend me," he told *The CJN*, and he began feeding his information to the free-net. He noted that neo-Nazis had managed to get material on the network via Portland but that was taken off because of complaints.

Until recently, McVay was doing his research with no contact with the Victoria Jewish community. He has some associates whom he knows only through his computer contacts — a professor of chemistry in Chicago, a retired Bostonian and others who funnel information to him. He asked me to supply him with whatever information The CJN gets on the current wave of hate literature and on historical revisionism.

He has been getting requests for information from PhD students who are doing their theses on the Holocaust and from the Simon Wiesenthal organization in Los Angeles.

McVay declared that his work "is not a religious issue with me. It's a human issue. I'm not interested in politics — I'm just interested in getting the truth on to the computer network."

One of his FAQs (frequently asked questions), he said, is about Auschwitz and he has compiled 5,000 words on the subject.

Financial assistance welcome

Kool invited McVay to meet in Victoria and McVay said that he intends to go on with his work despite the fact that it's costing him so much (especially for long distance phone communications) and despite the tendonitis he has developed in both elbows and carpal problems in both wrists from typing so much.

McVay said some financial assistance would be welcome and he especially needs a scanner (about $1,500) so that he can scan text he receives rather than have to type it out. In addition, of course, he can use information, especially eyewitness accounts, that could go on his database. "Or," says Kool, "we could help him in this typing and transcription."

As Kool Points out, McVay has created a "memory book" of "immense proportions," accessible to anyone with a computer and modem and from anywhere in the world. "It would be a kind gesture to help him."

All of McVay's material is available in the Victoria Free-Net computer at the Greater Victoria Public Library — at no charge.

Victoria Free-Net, British Columbia's and possibly Canada's first free-net, is operated by the Victoria Free-Net Association. It's financed by donations from corporations and free-net users. The free-net was founded here in June of 1992 and is affiliated with free-nets in a number of U.S. cities, including Buffalo, and with one in Ottawa. According to the Globe and Mail, a branch will start up in Toronto by March 31 of 1994. One of the affiliates is in Wellington, New Zealand.

If you want to use the Victoria free-net, dial 1-604-595-2300 and you can get access. However, Marty Chodos, a computer expert who keeps the computers running at the local Jewish Community Centre, cautions that "you can run up a big long distance phone bill if you stay on the network too long." This problem will be solved when Toronto gets its own free-net.

The Canadian Jewish News has been on an international computer network for a number of years and that's how it gets its up-to-the-minute world news, especially from Israel and from all over the United States.

Probably the easiest way to get information on how a free-net operates if you're in eastern Canada is to contact National Capital Free-Net in Ottawa. Or you can phone the Victoria Free-Net Association, 604-389-6026 or fax 604-384-8634.

לשנה טובה תכתבו

BTJ unique among schools

By CARL ALPERT

What's in a name? A great deal. Call it a yeshiva, and it's one image. Call it a school, and it falls into the category of hundreds of other schools in Israel which carry on educational programs of one sort or another. But call it Boys' Town Jerusalem, and the imagination is gripped.

BTJ occupies an 18-acre campus in the Bayit Vegan area of the nation's capital, where over 1,100 boys between the ages of 14 and 20 live in the dormitories and pursue a unique education combining Torah and technology, Mishna and microelectronics, ending up (after graduation) with distinguished service in Israel's Defence Forces.

This year's student body, which includes a large group of recent arrivals from Russia, come from 36 different countries around the world, including Sweden, Kurdistan, Ethiopia — and even the U.S. and Canada.

Within Israel they represent no less than 135 cities, towns and villages, literally covering the map of the country — but with strong representation from development and border towns where there are many underprivileged children.

Included also are three boys, members of the sect of Peruvian Indians who converted to Judaism and arrived in Israel recently with their families.

Boys' Town reputation has been enhanced by the achievements of its graduates. Among the more than 4,000 who have graduated since the school was founded (in 1948) are distinguished lawyers, doctors, educators, engineers, six judges, 298 army officers and rabbis.

There is an active follow-up of graduates, and special seminars are held periodically to recharge spiritual batteries and to update technological progress.

As a yeshiva, BTJ provides a thorough Jewish education in Torah and Talmud, but it also has a soccer field, a gymnasium, a basketball court and other sport facilities.

As a trade school, BTJ has served as a source of technological developments that have earned it high praise.

Students here have devised a microprocessing control system for traffic lights; a computerized teaching aid for hard-of-hearing children; a device to measure the velocity of bullets as they leave the muzzle of a gun — now in use by the police department; improvements on a computerized dictionary which prints out translations in Braille.

In marked contrast to many other religious institutions, BTJ is completely apolitical, and enjoys support from no political party.

The school, which is under the supervision of the Ministry of Education, is supported by government grants and by generous friends in Israel and overseas.

Some of the boys are sent there by Youth Aliyah or the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

BTJ students are active in community life as well. Their program of support for chronically-ill children in Jerusalem has earned wide praise.

And when a citywide chess tournament was held among 15 Jerusalem schools, BTJ walked off with first place.

It should be noted that all four members of the winning team were recent immigrants from Eastern Europe.

In its early days Boys' Town taught such trades as printing and carpentry, but it has moved with the times.

The key words now are computers, electronics, electro-mechanics and other terms of the new high technology.

Proudly they display a certificate of merit from the Israel Air Force, recognizing BTJ achievements in training its students in mechanical engineering, jet engines and electronics, thereby equipping the graduates for vital service in uniform. Nor do they forget that it is possible to serve — and also to observe.

Israeli soccer pro wows crowds

By SIMON GRIVER

Miki Dahan is a soccer player with a difference. The 22-year-old Israeli goalkeeper has been electrifying crowds in the country's remier national soccer league this season with his dazzling performances for Hapoel Tel Aviv. But he quite literally is unable to hear the applause of his admiring fans, because he is completely deaf.

Dahan insists that his handicap is, if anything, an advantage. "Goalkeepers are easily distracted," he says, "by taunts from spectators, or a whistle from the crowd. I just concentrate on the ball and keep playing until a colleague indicates that the referee's whistle has gone."

Israeli goalkeeper Miki Dahan

He admits that life is more difficult for his teammates, who must adjust to his disability by learning to attract his attention through signals rather than calling out.

Dahan has been deaf since he was 18-months-old when he contracted a serious ear, nose and throat infection. Using a sophisticated hearing aid and lip reading he can comprehend and even speak coherently, but on the pitch he must take off the device, which could be damaged during play or, worse still, cause a serious injury to his ear if inadvertently hit.

Dahan is following in the footsteps of his father Yaakov, who kept goal for another Israeli team, Hapoel Beersheva, during the 1960s and 70s. By first grade the younger Dahan began showing his goalkeeping prowess and, with coaching by his father, he developed into a teenage talent. He twice played for the national youth Olympic squad in 1991 against England in the qualifying matches for the Barcelona games, conceding only two goals.

Dahan's rapid reflexes enable him to defy scoring attempts with dramatic diving saves. After an impressive season in 1992 with second division Maccabi Herzliya, Dahan was transferred to Hapoel Tel Aviv, one of the country's leading teams.

"Miki proved his worth in his half dozen games alone," recounts Hapoel Tel Aviv's chair, Harel Moni. "There were several games that we would have lost were it not for his daring contribution."

Neither Dahan nor his father know of any other professional soccer player, elsewhere in the world, who is deaf, be he goalkeeper or outfield player. Dahan's immediate ambition is to help Hapoel Tel Aviv win either a championship or cup competition, while he is also hoping one day to represent the senior national team.
[Jerusalem Dateline]

Honey, Milton & Kevin Mandel
Cheryl & Saul Mandel
Daniel & Jeremy
Jana & Wayne Mandel & Jonathan
Wish all their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Wishing all our family and friends a happy and healthy New Year
Lil & Lou Melamed

Mr. & Mrs. Harry Melnik children & grandchildren
Wish all their relatives, friends & neighbours a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Mr. & Mrs. David Mendlowicz Lisa, Simon & Itzik Ravuna
wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Best wishes for a year of peace and serenity, health and happiness to our relatives and friends and the people of Israel.
Alex & Paula Mishevski Lucien & Audrey Barry & Susan and Families

Harry, Paula and Julius Michaels
wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

JOE & HELEN MORGAN AND FAMILY
wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Mr. & Mrs. Max Moneta
wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Best wishes for a year of peace and serenity, health and happiness to our relatives and friends and the people of Israel.
The Henry Milchman Family

Dr. & Mrs. Seymour Moskovitz and Family
wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Eli & Fela Mliczkiewicz
Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

N's . . .

Mr. & Mrs. David Naiberg & Family
5 Stonedene Boulevard
Wish all their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Max & Anna Nudelman
Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

MORRIS & MOLLY NAIMAN
wish all their relatives, friends & family and Drildzer Landslite a happy, healthy New Year. "Peace in Israel"
(in lieu of cards)

Chaim & Sarah Neuberger
Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Robert & Michele Nitkin, Brenna & Avery
Wish their relatives, friends & neighbors a happy and healthy New Year.

O's . . .

Best wishes for a year of peace and serenity, health and happiness to our relatives and friends and the people of Israel.
Mr. & Mrs. Sam Orlan

Joy & Leo Orzy
Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

לשנה טובה תכתבו

Mark & Barbara Obar
Children & Grandchildren
wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Rose & Sam Pacht
Children & Grandchildren
Wish all their relatives, friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

P's . . .

Sadie Perel
wishes her children, grandchildren, relatives and friends A Peaceful, Healthy & Happy New Year

Manny & Fannie Pack
597 Old Orchard Grove
Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Dorothy & Ben Pinkus
Wendy, Ernie, Bev, Stacy, Michael & Shawna
Wish all their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Max & Raia Pesses
Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Isaac & Sylvia Peck
Ryan, Jared & Samantha
wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Hanna & Phillip Price
Avri & Kobi Snitz
Downsview
Tzvi, Dvora, Neora & Alona Snitz
Israel
Wish all their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Mr. & Mrs. Leib Pillersdorf & Family
173 Caribou Road
Wish their relatives, friends & neighbors a happy and healthy New Year.

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.
Moniek & Genia Prusznowski

Best wishes for a year of peace and serenity, health and happiness to our relatives and friends and the people of Israel.
Mr. & Mrs. Martin Pearl
Melvin & Rhonda, Jordan
Michael, Zane & Samantha
Jack, Sigal, Tommy & Mickie

Rhoda & Max Ptasznik & Family
wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Isaac, Minny, David, Barbara, Sammy & Alyssa Peters
Morris, Marsha, Michelle & Jennifer Goldstein
Wish all their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Zalman & Pola Pila
199 Clanton Park Road
Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

R's . . .

Nathan & Freda Peck
Wish their relatives, friends & neighbors a happy and healthy New Year.

Sam & Dora Prince
wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Ralph, Yona, Jesse, Danielle
Joanna, Kari Rabinowicz
& Mrs. Bella Rabinowicz
wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Jewish learning centre changes with the times

By LISA CLAYTON

When Ze'ev Dashevsky established the "Manhanaim" (two camps) centre of Jewish learning in Moscow in the 1980s, it was indeed a split camp. Dashevsky, a charismatic and self-taught spiritual leader and teacher, held shiurim (Torah study sessions) in Moscow while many of his former pupils studied together in Jerusalem.

Aside from the physical distance between the two, the more poignant distinction was that Dashevsky's activities in Moscow had to be secretive. He was frequently harassed by the KGB, who often broke up his lessons, and warned that if he continued his activities he would be arrested.

Mahanaim still exists in Moscow, says the 55-year-old Dashevsky, a trained astrophysicist, "but the scope of our work there today is much more modest, since most of our members are now here in Israel."

Dashevsky was denied permission to leave Russia in 1977 on the grounds of having "access to state secrets." He was then fired from his job as researcher at the Institute for Terrestial Magnetism in Moscow, and until his aliya was forced to eke out a living for himself, his wife and three children by giving private physics lessons to high school pupils.

The last of the Mahanaim leaders to leave Moscow, he arrived in Israel in April 1990 with various business ideas for scientific projects. But he felt he must choose between spiritual absorption and science. "I felt better qualified in spiritual matters," says Dashevsky. "The economic problems are real, but until the immigrants realize that their return to Israel represents a return to their Jewish roots and that Israel is not just any country, it will be impossible to solve the other problems. So the need for Jewish education here in Israel is, paradoxically, more urgent than in Russia," he says.

Mahanaim has certainly made its mark among the some 500 Russian immigrants who flock to its classes — many of whom have no Jewish background. Indeed, the organization's two apartments in Jerusalem's Orthodox Geula neighborhood are a constant hive of activity with lessons held day and night in every available corner.

Dashevsky is particularly proud of Mahanaim's 100 students aged 50 and over who study for four hours each day. "Originally these semi-retired students received a small, symbolic stipend from the ministries of religion and education," he says. "Last September, however, our grants were cut and we thought we'd have to stop the course. But every one of our students continued coming to Mahanaim, stipend or not."

Ze'ev Dashevsky

Mahanaim provides focus and meaning for all its students, says Dashevsky, and even has a special preparatory course for converts to Judaism. "There are a lot of non-Jews among the Soviet immigrants," he says, "and a significant number are sincerely interested in becoming Jewish."

There is no magic formula for successful absorption, says Dashevsky. But it is important "to understand that the practical difficulties a new immigrant faces are not the essence of aliya."

Dashevsky, his wife and four children have lived in Ma'ale Adumim, a satellite town just outside Jerusalem, since they came to Israel. Together with a number of Russian immigrant neighbors, Mahanaim formed a non-profit organization to "create a sense of community, increase co-operation with the local yeshiva and possibly even build another beit midrash."

All these plans and hopes, says Dashevsky, were inconceivable 10 years ago. In those days, his dreams were "to stay out of prison, and not to have my classes disrupted by the KGB." But now, Dashevsky must rush — he has to check the Russian commentary of a new prayer book that is due at the printer by the end of the day. (WZPS)

Down's syndrome kids enter IDF

By SIMON GRIVER

From a distance the 26 young adults, both male and female, seem like a typical group of Israeli soldiers. But a closer look reveals the unique nature of this platoon, composed of youngsters aged 18-22, all of whom are afflicted with Down's syndrome. In a novel and enterprising experiment, the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) has agreed to accept these young adults, who don their uniforms twice a week to perform maintenance functions at military bases in the Jerusalem region.

The program was initiated by Prof. Reuven Feuerstein of Bar-Ilan University's Department of Education and head of the Hadassah-WIZO Canada Research Institute. He is a pioneer in the education of Down's syndrome children, and he insists that despite their lower levels of functioning due to an extra chromosome, they can still lead relatively fulfilling lives.

Feuerstein has successfully run vocational training courses for Down's syndrome adults to become nurses' assistants and carpenters. Always eager to boost the self-confidence of such youngsters, the Israeli professor persuaded the IDF to let the youngsters serve on a part-time basis.

He stresses that the essence of the project is to enable the Down's syndrome youngsters to contribute to society. "Everyone has the need to give as well as to take," he says.

Prof. Reuven Feuerstein encourages young army recruit with Down's Syndrome.

לשנה טובה תכתבו

One of Tzapari's performing parrots does his stuff. (WZPS photo)

Tzapari bird park is a dream come true

By LYDIA AISENBERG

A lush green wonderland with geological formations, ferns, fauna and feathers that would make even Mother Nature preen with pride, has been created along the banks of the Yarkon river in Tel Aviv.

Around the size of New York's Central Park, the star attraction of the 1,200 acre Yarkon Park, long ago set aside for recreational purposes by the municipality's urban planners and city elders, is the recently opened Tzapari bird park. Here, 17,000 birds of a feather flock together in a setting of rich tropical foliage and mini waterfalls.

Opening its revolving gates to the public in April 1992, Tzapari has already hosted some 200,000 visitors, including many school children studying wild life.

A large group of first graders, armed with work sheets and colored pens, chatter excitedly in unison with the 300 different aspects of birds hailing from Africa, South America and the Far East.

Teachers in tow, the children busily color in their pre-printed diagrams, capturing the many colors of the parrots, canaries, toucons, cockatoos, quail and weavers.

Swans, ducks and geese bob along in a pool crammed with lilies and fed by a waterfall. Everywhere one looks amongst the foliage tiny birds flitter from one branch to another, or hide under gigantic leaves; flashes of color catching the corner of the eye.

The park, which took 18 months to construct at a cost of over $700,000, was the dream come true of owner Yair Zabary and his partner, Ilan Dinar, Tel Avivian bird fanciers and friends since childhood.

Passion for animals

Zabary, an energetic sabra whose passion for animals and birds has made him one of the country's leading experts on wild life, travelled the world with Dinar to study bird parks before setting out on their home based venture, the only one of its kind in the Middle East.

Every month Zabary travels to the European Bird Boursa in Belgium where almost every exotic winged wonder can be purchased. Back in Israel, he supplies some 400 pet shops, his own outlet in Tel Aviv, and the Tzapari.

"Israelis are great nature lovers and the demand for birds as household pets has increased dramatically over the last decade, particularly with the elderly looking for a companion pet that doesn't demand too much from them physically," said Zabary, slowly making his way along the narrow paths that wind between the cages.

More than 3,000 birds are housed in one huge aviary alone, 1,500 square metres (4,500 square feet) and 17 metres (51 feet) high. Visitors may enter, and stand transfixed at the awesome sight of so many different species of varying colors and sizes flying over and around them, the thick foliage resembling a natural jungle.

Performing parrots also strut their stuff daily in the Tzapari park's small intimate amphitheatre — riding bicycles and roller skating across the stage to squeals of delight from their young audience.

Plans to expand

The large investment, both financial and in energy, behind the Tzapari has not clipped Zabary's wings. The park has already been granted another large area of adjoining land where he plans to establish a butterfly house, birds of prey centre, and another for reptiles.

The Yarkon Park also contains exotic gardens, wide open picnic areas, a sports complex of courts and playing fields that are rarely empty and a miniature railway. The river and artificial lake offer fishing, sailing, surfing and rowing to water babies, and hook, line and fly throwers of all ages.

A rock garden that could well be a Star Trek backdrop contains some 500 rocks, some weighing as much as six tons, that have been arranged to echo Israel's geological formations from north to south.

Visitors enter through a narrow tunnel leading into a limestone channel. As it widens, granite, flint, sandstone, limestone, gypsium, volcanic and salt rocks, and even pebbles from the sea shore are revealed, skilfully laid out to create an almost out of this world landscape. The amphitreatre, consisting of precisely cut white marble from Mitzpe Ramon in the Negev form a 16-foot circle, surrounded by steps used as seating for dance, music and theatrical performances.

And energetic youngsters can work off steam climbing up, swinging across and sliding down a wooden structure adventure playground thoughtfully embedded in large mounds of sand, and aptly set up close to the puppet theatre.

Special performances for mixed groups of Arab and Jewish children are accompanied by translators so that no child is left out of the story.

With so many diverse activities, Yarkon Park definitely has something for everyone . . . and more.

— WZPS

Genia & Henry Rakowski

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Paul & Phyllis Rosengarten

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Best wishes for a year of peace and serenity, health and happiness to our relatives and friends and the people of Israel.

Ernie & Debra Raphael and Family

Willie & Bertha Rosengarten & Family

672 Briar Hill Avenue.

Wish all their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Jack & Mary Rapoport

147 Almore Ave.

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Jack & Hedda Rothman

wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

David & Wendy Rechtsman Mikael & Noah

wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Sam & Eva Rotholc

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Mr. & Mrs. P. Rechtsman and Family

Wish their relatives, friends & neighbors a happy and healthy New Year.

Morris & Dena Rozen Eryn & Daniel

wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Mr. & Mrs. Jan Rolin

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Max & Mania Rubinstein

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Murray & Sylvia Rumack and children

wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Mike & Sally Rosen

31 Denmark Crescent

Wish all their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Nathan & Heddy Rydel

Best wishes to our children grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Max & Sabina Rosenbloom Joseph, Lee, Sheera, Avi & Adina Minkowitz

Wish all their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Hannah & John Rosen Karen, Amy and Eric

wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Myer & Miriam Rosenberg

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Martin, Lena, David & Joshua Rauchwerger and Helen Rauchwerger

wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Lily & Mike Rosenberg children & grandchildren

wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Goldie & Bill Rotman

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

לשנה טובה תכתבו

S's . . .

Rosita & David Salomon
and their daughter Charlotte
Wish their relatives, friends & neighbors a happy and healthy New Year.

The Sandlers
David, Rosie & Danielle
Wish their relatives, friends & neighbors a happy and healthy New Year.

Annette & Michael Sacks
Jordan, Brooke & Eric
wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Pola Schonfeld
Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Best wishes for a year of peace and serenity, health and happiness to our relatives and friends and the people of Israel.
David Scheer
and Sons & their
Families

Wishing all our family and friends a happy and healthy New Year
Mr. & Mrs. Sigmund Schmidt
3900 Yonge St., PH. #3

Nachum & Lea Shore
23 Fanshawe Dr., Richmond Hill
Wish their relatives, friends & neighbors a happy and healthy New Year.

Mrs. Belle Shub
& Family
471 Coldstream Avenue
Wish all their relatives, friends & neighbors a happy and healthy New Year.

Mrs. Nancy Silver
wishes her relatives and friends a sweet, happy and healthy New Year.

Larry & Pam Shapiro
Mark, Jodi & Robyn
Wish their relatives, friends & neighbors a happy and healthy New Year.

Mr. Max Sharp
2515 Bathurst St. *(Penthouse)*
Wishes all his relatives and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Oscar & Florence Shainhouse
Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Ben & Ruth Shogilev
Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Nathan, Helen & Barbara Shiff
Marty & Mikki Shiff
Jeffrey, Aviva & David Shiff
Wish all their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Wishing all our family and friends a happy and healthy New Year
Eli & Paula Shvili
Jason, Jessica and Dylan

Norman & Regina Silver
36 Renaissance Court
Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Dorice & David Silverman
& Family
wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Mr. & Mrs. Tom A. Silverman
Brad & Marcie
wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Sam & Minka Smith
35 Purdon Drive
Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends, relatives & neighbors for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Hikers in the Ramon Crater in southern Israel, part of the Israel Trail.

Israel Trail proves fascinating for hikers

By RUTH HEIGES

Though Israel has a tradition of hiking which even precedes the establishment of the State, it took an Israeli who hiked portions of the Appalachian Trail in the eastern United States in the early 1980's to introduce the concept to Israel.

The Israeli was the late Avraham Tamir, a journalist for the "Devar" Hebrew daily newspaper and a veteran of the Society for Protection of Nature in Israel (SPNI). He suggested that Israel's numerous trails be consolidated into a north-south continuum, incorporating Israel's many off-the-beaten-track beauty spots and historic sights. The Israel Trail was born.

Israel's Public Committee for Trail Marking, established by the SPNI, today also comprises the Nature Reserves Authority, the National Parks Authority, the Jewish National Fund, the Youth Hostel Association, the Ministry of Education and Culture, the Ministry of Tourism and the Israel Mapping Center. Their plan was modelled on that of Hillel Birger, the topographical expert who charted the Judean Desert in the 1940's when there were no tracks or even dirt tracks for vehicles. Under his guidance, Jewish teenagers — members of the Hagana pre-army forces — charted the region both to develop survival tactics and to strengthen their link with Biblical history.

Fittingly, the first segments of the 800 kilometre (500 miles) Israel Trail to be opened to the public were in the Negev. These include a 20-kilometre (12-mile) stretch which starts at Mamshit, the ruins of an ancient Nabatean city near Dimona, and ends at the Ramon Crater. For the truly hardy, there is a 150-kilometre (105-mile) trail from Ein Avdat through the Uvda Valley, reaching Eilat.

Recommended shorter hikes (4 to 5 kilometres or 2-2½ miles) are from Ein Avdat to Avdat or from Mitzpeh Ramon, through the Ramon Crater, to the Eilat highway.

Winter '93 will see the completion of the entire Galilee portion of the trail, creating a continuous trail from Dan in the north, to Caesarea on the west coast. Ambitious souls can hike from Mt. Meron, through the Meron and Amud River valleys to the Kinneret.

Portions of both the Galilee and Negev trails have already been posted. Thus even the first-time visitor to Israel can tour the region by foot through the country's nature reserves, national parks, archaeological sites, etc.

"A road map can only lead one along routes for car travel," explains Ori Devir, Israel's doyen of hidden nature spots. "Where can you stretch your legs, enjoy a bit of unspoiled landscape, perhaps splash in a stream — and be sure of coming out where you planned to at the end of the day?"

A veteran hiker who heads the Department of Eretz Israel Studies at Beit Beri college and co-ordinates the Public Committee for Trail Marking, Devir is "interested in preserving the adventure while updating the maps and signs. Some trails, though," he says, "will be left unmarked to provide a challenge for anyone wishing to navigate their way with an ordinary map."

Although appropriately detailed maps are currently available only in Hebrew, Devir is confident that the trails can be navigated easily, simply following the universal and uniform system of signs. These consist of a configuration of two slashes pointing the way in two colors: the blue pointing northward and the orange pointing southward. At close intervals along the trail, they are visible from both directions. "Israel Trail" appears in English, Arabic and Hebrew.

Notably absent from the current picture is the entire central portion of the country. This is due to the difficulty of obtaining right-of-way from a great number of property owners and the delay involved in deciding whether or not the trail should cross the pre-1967 borders.

During the 1991 initiation of the completed portions of the Israel Trail, a CNN reporter asked whether this wasn't actually an effort to mark new borders. Answered Devir, "Portions of the trail will cross the pre-1967 'Green Line,' and hikers will have the option of continuing on either side. We are confident that we are creating a peaceful legacy for the future."

—WZPS

לשנה טובה תכתבו

Joanna Jordan

Gifted harpist explores new musical territory

By PAULA CITRON

Harps are usually associated with a fragile women in flowing chiffon gowns who play ethereal arpeggios fit for a heavenly choir. And then there's Joanna Jordon.

The 39-year-old Toronto-based harpist has taken her instrument into new territory. Jordan is an accomplished jazz/pop harpist who created the performing group Clazz and is the heart of the hard-edge blues band J.J. and the G Strings. In fact, so proficient is Jordan in finding modern ways to use the harp that she won second prize in the 1991 International Jazz and Pop Harp Festival attended by 160 competitors from eight countries.

The astonishing thing about Jordan is that she came to the instrument late, studying the harp in a music elective when she went to George Washington University in Washington, D.C., as a psychology and math major.

"I have always been mesmerized by the harp even though my background is piano," says Jordan. "At symphony concerts, my eyes would be glued on the harpist so when the chance came to take an elective course, I grabbed it.

"From the first moment, I absolutely fell in love with the dynamic range of the instrument. Piano is just hitting the keys. With a harp, you can play a infinite range of sound levels."

In her second year, Jordan switched to a music major. Her harp teacher convinced Jordan's father to buy his daughter her own instrument, which in 1973 cost about $3,600. Today, harps average around $30,000. That same year, her father retired from the American air force, one of the few Jews to reach the rank of colonel, and joined a lighting firm which sent him to Toronto to open up their Canadian operation.

Jordan was told to move with her family to Toronto because one of the best harp teachers in North America was on staff at the University of Toronto. In this way, Jordan became a student of Judy Loman, esteemed harpist with the Toronto Symphony and teacher extraordinaire.

"I represent a new breed of harpists," explains Jordan. "We have heavy-duty classical training but we prefer jazz and rock. Most of the great composers didn't understand the versatility of the harp and they just wrote arpeggios and crescendos. I love jazz because of the rhythm, an element which is missing in classical harp music. The close harmony, the improvisation — that's jazz, and that's what I love doing."

Jordan knew she wanted to be a professional harpist but a professional needs two instruments, one for backup. The harp strings have to be changed at least twice a year and it takes two to three weeks for the harp to play in tune. During that time, the harp is out of commission.

After graduating in 1979, Jordan became a waitress to save up money for a second harp. By a stroke of luck, in 1980 the Royal York Hotel's music director, Howard Cable, called Loman asking for the name of a harpist to play in the Gazebo Room over the cocktail hour. Jordan got the job. "The gig lasted three years and it was great," she says. "I got to jam with Ella Fitzgerald's bass player and joined the orchestra in the Imperial Room when they needed a harpist for the likes of Tony Bennett. I met all kinds of famous people and got great music tips."

When the Royal York engagement ended, Jordan discovered she had a flare for business. "I had to get myself known so I created a brochure and a classy-looking press kit that I sent out everywhere. This got Clazz jobs at weddings, bar mitzvahs and corporate events. The premier's office called me to play a reception for Princess Margaret and the SkyDome asked me to perform the national anthem at Blue Jays games.

Jordan working on a CD

"Clazz became so successful that I was featured in *Your Money* magazine as an example of a female entrepreneur. I also have two tapes out and I'm working on a CD. The CBC is also discussing the possibility of taping a live performance at a top flight jazz club."

Jordan is not just a harp player. She also composes songs and film scores and has taken courses in stand-up comedy, magic and clowning to create a character called The Wayward Angel which is part of her touring show. "I come out in wings and a halo and I have magic dust that lets me do whatever I want." Jordan is also working on creating a "loud" harp which combines electronics and metal strings to eliminate the need for amplification during jazz and rock sessions.

To increase audience awareness about jazz/pop/rock harp music, Jordan would like to start a series and bring to Toronto some of her talented colleagues from around the world. Another project is financing her CD which will get her air play on the radio. She believes harpists can move centre stage.

"Because we're playing mostly background music, I often feel like one of the waiters. I want one day to be in a position where I'm playing only for audiences that are quiet and listening."

Mr. & Mrs. Ben Siwak

Best wishes to our children, grandchild, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Best Wishes for a Happy & Healthy New Year to all our relatives, clients & Friends

Mr. & Mrs. Milton Snow
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Snow & family
Mr. & Mrs. Allan Schwartz & family
Dr. & Mrs. Stephen Cohen

Wishing all our parents, family and friends a happy and healthy New Year

Henry & Susan
Lisa & Carl Smith

Laury, Evy & Billi Snow

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Ben & Helen Sonshine

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Max & Dorothy Stern

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Harry & Hania Sporer
Michael, Marsha
Jonathan & Ethan Lax

Wish their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Anne & Joe Steinberg
Bella, Elliot & Jason Sinukoff
Evy & Elliot Sugar
Wendy, Stuart, Zachary & Cory Himmel

Wish their relatives, machatunim & friends a happy and healthy New Year

52 Green Acres Road

Wishing all our family and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

The Steinman Family

6 Barclay Court

Alter & Helen Steinfeld

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year

Anne & Morris Stein

3 Westover Hill Road

Wish all their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Zanvel & Sylvia Stern
Derek and Corinne

37 Steele Valley Road

Wish their relatives, friends & neighbors a happy and healthy New Year.

Best wishes for a year of peace and serenity, health and happiness to our relatives and friends and the people of Israel.

Mrs. Pauline Sporn

Leon & Bela Sniatowski

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Morris & Yetta Sternberg and Family

90 Overbrook Pl.

Wish all their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Stork and Family

wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Elliot & Rachelle Switzman
Carly, Jordana & Jesse

wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Isaac and Mary Szames

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Jack, Lola, Rose-Mary Sylman
Sid, Evelyn, Madison & Tyler Rochwerg

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Best wishes for a year of peace and serenity, health and happiness to our relatives and friends and the people of Israel.

Dave & Sylvia Singer and Family

לשנה טובה תכתבו

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Szmeiser
Leora & Steven Hazan
David & Tabetha Star
4485 Bathurst
Wish their relatives, friends & neighbors a happy and healthy New Year.

Wishing all our family and friends a happy and healthy New Year
Mr. & Mrs. Louis Szikla & family
Fay Kolinsky

T's . . .

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Tenenbaum
Sidney, Judy, Gary, Louise, Tamara, Ari-Lev & Eliahu Tenenbaum
Wish their relatives, friends & neighbors a happy and healthy New Year.

Dina & Willie Tenenbaum
Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Mrs. Rose Tenenbaum
Best wishes to my children, grandchildren, relatives and friends for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Mr. & Mrs. G. Thaler and Family
Wish all their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Philip & Alina Turk
Sally & David Laren
Amanda & Dustin
Helen & David Litman
Larry & Cindy
Wish all their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Norm & Sandra Turk and Family
wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Best wishes for a year of peace and serenity, health and happiness to our parents, relatives and friends and the people of Israel.
Ian, Tobe, Karen & Sheldon Tweyman

Victor & Nancy Tucker
Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Abram & Genia Tushinski
Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, relatives and friends for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Wishing all our family and friends a happy and healthy New Year
Morris Teper & Family

U's . . .

Best wishes for a year of peace and serenity, health and happiness to our relatives and friends and the people of Israel.
Harry and Yetta Ungerman and Family

V's . . .

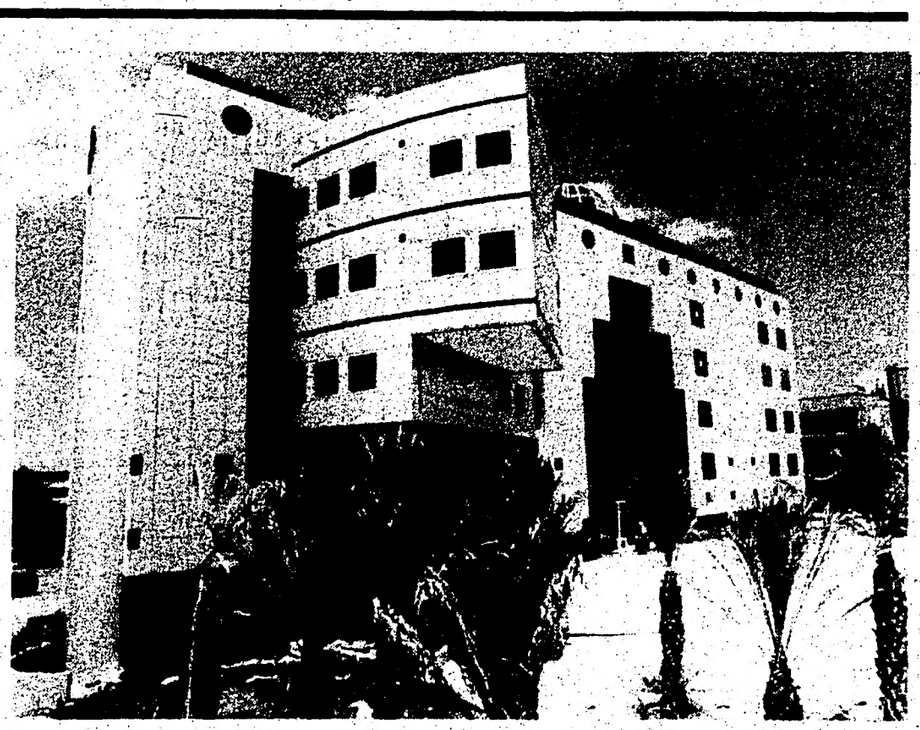
David & Sara Visenberg and Family
Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

W's . . .

Norman & Sonia Wagner and Family
344 Hillhurst Blvd.
Wish all their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Sonia Waisberg
Best wishes to my children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Sara & Menachem Wallach
Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.



A view of the Felsenstein Medical Research Centre.

New medical centre devoted to research

A major medical research centre was launched June 16 in Israel when the Felsenstein Medical Research Centre opened at the 1,100-bed Beilinson Hospital campus in Petach Tikva, near Tel Aviv.

The innovative project is sponsored by British international business executive and author, Alan Fenton, as one of the first devoted to applied clinical research, connected to a major hospital, in order to develop practical solutions to prevailing diseases.

The $15 million centre contains 6,000 sq m (60,000-sq. ft.) of laboratories, surgical units, and other facilities in a contemporary five-storey building. It is dedicated to the memory of Basil and Gerald Felsenstein, his twin brothers who lost their lives serving in the Royal Air Force in World War II.

Fenton, 61, a native of London and Oxford graduate, now lives in Geneva.

Currently a successful novelist, Fenton was an international metals and oil trader with Philipp Brothers and Marc Rich & Company, until he left business in 1980. Previously he enjoyed a career as a television scriptwriter.

"This project symbolizes our faith in the future and in a way gives meaning to my brothers' sacrifice," Fenton stated in calling on scientists and potential donors to support the new medical research centre.

British Columbia Forest to include 300,000 trees

By MAURICE LUCOW

Residents in the hot, humid Galilee region in northern Israel will soon be finding a spot to cool off in the British Columbia Forest where some 300,000 trees are being planted by the Jewish National Fund, paid for by the B.C. region of the JNF.

The primary area of the forest, located in the Upper Galilee on the side of a hill called Har Kamon, will occupy 1,500 dunams (375 acres). The location is close to the main highway between Acco and Tiberias — about half way between the two centres.

By mid-summer, 100,000 trees were already planted and the planting goes on. A lookout at the top of the hill (in Israel it's called a mountain but by B.C. standards it's a hill) provides a breathtaking view of the Galilee, including the Kinneret, the modern city of Carmel, Nazareth, many of the settlements in the Galilee and the Karmel Mountains. On a clear day the ski hills in the Golan are clearly visible.

When completed, the project will include a picnic area and a place to rest and cool off. Nearby is the comparatively new town of Karmiel, home to many new olim as well as to native Israelis. It's an area filled with historical archeological and biblical sites of significance to Christians as well as Jews. The area has never been considered disputed territory, according to the JNF.

The trees being planted are several varieties of pine and oak and will also include olive and carob trees. "At a later stage," says Naomi Frankenburg, chairman of the honorary board of the project, "we plan to experiment in planting a few trees indigineous to B.C. — especially dogwood."

More than $300,000 has already been raised for the B.C. Forest project through Negev Dinners in Vancouver and Victoria and through other methods, and the campaign will be a continuing one, says Frankenburg.

Norman Gold, J.N.F. president of the British Columbia region, told The CJN that the idea of the forest — the only one to be named after a Canadian province in Israel — was proposed a couple of years ago by an octogenarian member of the board and former president of the region, Leo Levy. Such a project, said Levy, would stress the connection between the forests and reforestation of B.C. and JNF's work.

The idea was pursued, said Gold, by the Jerusalem emissary based in Vancouver at the time, Col. Kami Robinson, and by Keren Kayemet L'Yisrael in Israel. The site was selected and an honorary board was formed, with Naomi Frankenburg as chairman and Speaker of the House of Commons John Fraser as patron.

On March 1 of 1992, John Fraser flew to Israel, joining a number of Vancouverites who were there with JNF mission, and he formally dedicated the forest. "It was a very satisfying and emotional moment for all of us," said Gold.

Kami Robinson and his family returned to Israel last summer to become director of development for the JNF and has kept close watch on the progress of the forest, Gold said. Gold, Frankenburg, and Natan Sass, the JNF's chief forester met in Israel later to approve the design for the lookout and the dedication wall to be constructed, Gold said.

Early this spring, Gideon Shavit, the new Jerusalem emissary visited the site with Robinson and "returned with good news and photographs that the lookout had been completed, that tree planting was well underway and that a road accessing the nature reserve had been surveyed," Gold reported.

Gold said the forest "is an exciting project and can only be truly appreciated by visiting it. Only then can you really understand the tremendous impact a few trees, some shade, a park, a picnic area have in such a hot climate for local residents who live without air-conditioning almost exclusively in apartments — not to mention the ecological impact."

לשנה טובה תכתבו

Pulp made from hibiscus cannabinus for use in paper production.

New problem — old solution

By SHARON KANON

With the information explosion of the computer age, the demand for paper has increased worldwide. To fill the needs of this 20th century phenomenon, it has become necessary to cut down more and more trees that serve a crucial role in the earth's ecosystems.

In Israel the problem is compounded since the country has no forests to spare. Experts at the Volcani Center for Agricultural Research in Beit Dagan think they have found a good alternative to expensive imported pulp.

Hibiscus cannabinus, a tall hardy plant, evokes the image of papyrus used by the Egyptians centuries ago. Twenty years ago it was a common source of rope manufactured in the Far East. When nylon was introduced, it was shunted aside. About eight years ago, it began to emerge as a source for high-quality paper. Five years ago, it was first proposed by Menachem Tsur of the Field Crops Department as an alternative to cotton in Israel, when that commodity's prices fell on world markets.

The lanky plant has several advantages for the farmer. Relatively simple to grow, its water needs are spread out and are not concentrated in particular months. Moreover, waste water can be used since no by-product is eaten, and there is no problem of smell as with flowers.

Israel has ideal conditions for growing the seeds and the plant. "Countries with a lot of rain in the winter months cannot grow the seeds," says Yair Elber of the Engineering Agriculture Department of the Volcani Institute. Israel is ready to commercialize the sale of seeds. "We have the agro-technical knowledge to provide all the necessary information on the best way to cultivate the plant successfully, in order to achieve the maximum harvest," he says.

Plant has great potential

Giving a high priority to conserving the forests, Hibiscus cannabinus has great potential. Furthermore, when converting the fiber to paper, the amount of pollution to be dealt with is greatly reduced. "In the rapid process used to get out the waste material, part can be used as fuel and part recycled," says Elber. Three countries are already making paper from this plant: Australia, Thailand and the United States.

"Another problem — similar to that experienced with cotton — is how to keep the factories working during the months when they are not making the pulp. We're looking for an answer from an agricultural point of view," says Elber. "Our aim is to produce 60,000 tons of raw pulp for Israel's paper needs.

Varieties of the kenaf plant, hibiscus cannabinus, grown in Israel.

Sylvia & Henry Waks

Wish all their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Ted, Perlan, Mark, Aaron & Randy Waxman
83 Stonedene Blvd.
Wish their relatives, friends & neighbors a happy and healthy New Year.

Mr. Ralph Waldman
c/o SINAI-PARENTS & OLD AGE HOME
Shederot Sinai 10-12
Ahuza, Haifa 31071
ISRAEL
wishes all family and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Wishing all our family and friends a happy and healthy New Year
Sidney & Helen Waterman and Family

Ben & Isabel Waisberg
33 Granite Street, Downsview
wish their children, grandchildren, relatives, friends & neighbors a happy & healthy New Year.

Miriam & Leslie Wise & Family
38 Nevada Avenue
Wish their relatives, friends & neighbors a happy and healthy New Year.

Jack & Anne Weinbaum & Family
Wish all their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Dr. & Mrs. Joseph Weinstock
David, Moss, Mark & Daniel
Wish their relatives, friends & neighbors a happy and healthy New Year.

Ted, Annette Madison & Eden Wine
wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Lynda & Charles Weinberg
Jodi & Lisa
wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Sarah & Abe Wertman
Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful holiday.

Laurie & Larry Wise and Family
wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Mr. & Mrs. Hy Weinrib & Marla
Danny & Risa
Shane, Lauren & Jamie Fine
Wish their relatives, friends & neighbors a happy and healthy New Year.

Harry & Ida Weisleder
Mark & Jodi
Louis & Marsha
Anne & Sam Himelfarb
Adam & Eric
Wish all their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Best wishes for a year of peace and serenity, health and happiness to our relatives and muchatonim friends, and the people of Israel.
Harry & Rose Wolfe
43 Kennard Avenue

Mrs. Rosie Wittman
wishing my relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Lou & Helen Wronzberg
Rick, Debbie, Alexis & Danielle
Larry, Darlene, Lynsey & Tarah
Randy, Debbie, Jordan, Ashley, Dustin & Melissa
Donna, Jonah, Nechama, Chaim & Shmuel
and Sarah Gelman
Wish all their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Blanche & Sidney Wolbrom
Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Leonard & Gloria Wiseberg & Family
wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

לשנה טובה תכתבו

Beth and Stephen Werger and Tanya

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FROM THE STAFF OF

The Canadian Jewish news

Boris Michaelshvili, wife Esther and youngest child Daniel celebrate Pesach, as they begin their new life in Israel.

Jews taking flight from hostile Abkhazia

Seven months ago the Michaelshvilis were sitting in their living room in Abkhazia, formerly part of the Soviet Union, when a stray bullet whizzed passed them and lodged itself in the wall. Boris Michaelshvili says angrily, "That was the final straw." He continues, "The next days we spent cowering in a back room." Three days later the family left in a Jewish Agency-arrange convoy to the airport. They flew directly to Israel.

Since hostilities began, Israel's Agency has been rescuing Jews from this deadly conflict. Once safe, the Jewish Agency is pivotal in the absorption of these new immigrants as well as the hundreds of thousands of other newcomers from the former Soviet Union.

Abkhazia has been decimated by the civil war which erupted between Christians and Moslems after the break up of the Soviet Union. The Michaelshvilis are from Sukhomi, a city which has been hard hit by hostilities. Boris's wife Esther says, "Sarajevo gets wide coverage but the fighting in Sukhomi is every bit as bad." She adds, "We heard that the fighting intensified during the winter and that there was literally no water or electricity in the city."

The Michaelshvilis, who have two children aged eight and two, cannot help but feel a parallel between their flight and the exodus of the children of Israel from Egypt. Discussing their recent Passover celebration, Boris says, "This year I took special strength from the story of the Haggadah. It reminded me that overcoming suffering and hardship and building anew is the story of our people. This is a shared experience for all the generations."

This family is quickly building anew. Despite their fond memories of Sukhomi during better days — the days when it was known as the Switzerland of the Soviet Union — they realize that it is a world that is no more. They now are driven by the desire to fully integrate into their new country. Boris, who was trained as an electrical engineer, works as a porter in a warehouse. For him, it is a first step and a stage that he will move beyond once he has perfected his Hebrew. Esther is focusing on learning the language and helping her children adjust, while also looking for a job. Esther says, "Our Israeli neigbors tell us to have patience and everything will work out in the end. We're just hoping they're right."

So far, things do seem to be working out. The family has just purchased an apartment in Ashkelon. Having their own home is already strengthening their roots. Esther says, "Our new home is going to be as comfortable as the home we left behind in Sukhomi." After a thoughtful pause, she adds, "Only it will be better because it's in Israel where we're safe."

Sports goes high-tech

By SIMON GRIVER

There is much more to sports than meets the eye these days. Traditional athletic endeavor is now backed up by a battery of high-tech equipment operated by medical professionals.

The Centre for Research and Sports Medical Science at Israel's Wingate Institute for Physical Education and Sport utilizes state-of-the-art lasers, sophisticated laboratories, computers and ultrasound equipment to enhance sports performance for both budding Olympic medalists and members of the public simply wishing to keep fit.

Dr. Yoni Yarom, director of the Centre, describes his facilities as unique in Israel and among the best in the world. "We take a multidimensional approach," he adds," with four major areas of activity: overcoming medical problems related to sport, physiology, biodynamics and psychology. "When asked to identify those areas in which the Centre plays a leading international role, Dr. Yarom speaks of research and application into sports for asthmatics as well as psychology in sports.

Asthma sufferers can today attend the Centre to exercise in special laboratories. Their lung functioning is treated before and after exercise, and a sports training program suited for each individual is prescribed. The Centre also specializes in devising sports agendas for paraplegics, amputees and people with other disabilities.

The Centre for Research and Sports Medical Science was founded in 1970 and became internationally renowned when researchers formulated the "Wingate test." This is now a routinely-used blood test to determine an athlete's capacity for aerobic breathing, taking in oxygen from the atmosphere, before he or she needs to switch to anaerobic breathing, using internal muscular energy.

"Here at Wingate we are also becoming increasingly involved in the psychology of sport," observes Dr. Yarom. "This is much more difficult to analyze than style, posture and muscular capacity. Yet it is undoubtedly the psychological approach that makes the difference between a loser and a champion."

לשנה טובה תכתבו

Israel's bio-organic fresh produce is marketed under the Carmel Bio-Top label.

Farmers rather switch

By SIMON GRIVER

Israeli farmers are increasingly switching to bio-organic agriculture. This not only produces healthier products and a cleaner environment but also makes highly profitable ecomomic sense since organically nurtured fruits and vegetables fetch premium prices.

In 1992 alone Israeli farmers exported 6,200 tons of organically grown fresh fruit and vegetables for more than $5.5 million. This figure includes 1,200 tons of citrus fruit, mainly oranges and grapefruit; 3,900 tons of vegetables, principally carrots, tomatoes, potatoes, celery and broccoli; and 1,100 tons of fruit, especially avocados and bananas. The produce was marketed by the Israeli company Agrexo under the brand name Carmel Bio-Top. According to Tali Ziv Lahav of Agrexco's marketing department, most of the produce is purchased in Germany, France, Britain and Scandinavia.

"Bio-Top is most popular," she explains, "where green awareness is at its highest. For this reason the American market has also begun to buy our organically grown products, especially winter-grown tomatoes and carrots."

Organic farming was introduced into Israel in 1983 by Mario Levy, from Kibbutz Sde Eliyahu in the Jordan Valley. He founded the Israel Bio-Organic Agricultural Association (IBOAA), which today has 200 members, mainly kibbutz collective and moshav co-operative settlements. The IBOAA makes regular field inspections and enforces international standards such as the requirements for export to the European Economic Community.

Under these regulations fields must be left fallow for three years before they can be used for organic crops. Pesticides and herbicides are strictly prohibited but, in addition, neighboring fields that do use such substances must be at least 30 metres distant or a minimum of 250 metres away if the crops are sprayed by aircraft.

Yossi Gold, a farmer on Kibbutz Meirav in Israel's Galilee region, who grows carrots and broccoli organically, explains that while such environment-friendly produce fetches about one and a half times the price of regular crops, raising them involves double the work.

"There is the constant chore of weeding by hand," he explains, "because herbicides are not used, and we must be very vigilant about pests too. But it's worth the effort. Too many farmers are polluting the ground that provides them with their livelihood. **[Jerusalem Dateline]**

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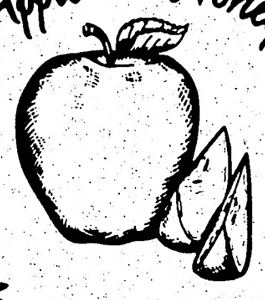

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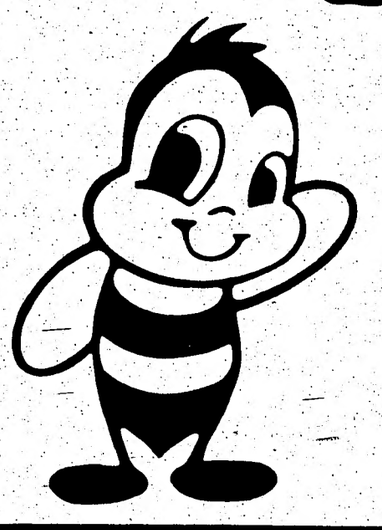

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לשנה טובה תכתבו

Educated Ethiopian makes easy transition to Israel

Facile Eshkol at the Israel Free Loan Association, where he helps Ethiopian and Soviet imigrants apply for loans.

Facile Eshkol, 28, clasps his sturdy hands, lifts searing black eyes, and says, "I have little to worry about. It's the others I have concern for."

The well-built Eshkol, who is dressed casually, wearing what looks like a ski sweater, is referring to other Ethiopian immigrants in Israel. For him, the adjustment to Israel has been a mild transition.

Eshkol is among what he estimates to be five percent of the new Ethiopian immigrants who are well-educated, multilingual, and generally well prepared for Western culture. He was raised in Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa, and received a university scholarship to study in the former Soviet Union. With the assistance of the Jewish Agency, he arrived in Israel in 1989, before the dramatic airlift which rescued more than 14,000 Ethiopian Jews.

For Eshkol, immigration to Israel has meant a reunification with most of his family, who started arriving in Israel 15 years ago.

Thirteen years ago, Eshkol's father and five of his children, trekked through the Sudan, where they were helped by the Jewish Agency to get to Israel. The elder Eskol, who was accused in Ethiopia of agitating other Jews to move to Israel, had little choice about his departure. A Hebrew teacher who maintained a strict religious home, he had already been persecuted and jailed. If the didn't leave, he knew that worse could be in store for him.

Fortunately for the younger Eshkol, he did not experience the wrath endured by his father. Looking bemused, Eshkol says, "When I applied for the scholarship no one asked me if I was Jewish and I didn't volunteer the information." He adds, "Jews were hated in Ethiopia."

It seems that they didn't fare much better in the former Soviet Union. Eshkol says, "It never occured to Soviet students that I could be Jewish, so they spoke to me very openly about their feelings towards Jews. They'd say things like: '...they're bad, cheap, we hate them, they're not even people.' Some asked why I even wanted to talk about Jews."

By chance, Eshkol developed another life, unbeknownst to his Ethiopian or Soviet classmates. He explains, "I was at the post office and another student happened to notice a letter I had just received. The letter was from my mother and it had an Israeli stamp." When the stamp was noticed Eshkol's mind started racing to think of a clever explanation. He didn't need one. His soon-to-be friend acknowledged that he was also Jewish. Through this friendship, Eshkol became linked to the Soviet-Jewish world.

A degree of chance seems to be Eshkol's companion. He's currently employed by the Israel Free Loan Association, a group that provides loans for immigrants and for Israelis with large families. The non-profit group was started over three years ago by Dr. Eliezar Jaffe, a Hebrew University professor.

Eshkol was at the association applying for a loan, when the manager laughingly said that what he needed in the office was someone fluent in Russian, Amharic, and English. Eshkol responded, "What's the problem? Here I am." After Eshkol convinced the bewildered manager that he wasn't joking, he was instantly hired.

Eshkol is well aware that most other Ethiopian immigrants have had a more difficult road to travel. He says, "Most people have gone through a terrible cultural shock. And even when they get homes and jobs, there are still the psychological adjustments to deal with." Eshkol stresses the importance of social programs and also emphasizes the significance of time. He says, "It will happen slowly, but when immigrants feel that this is their culture, when they start thinking like Israelis, that's when it will be all right."

Tapping the table lightly with his long fingers, Eshkol adds, "But there's no problem with the children." With a grateful sigh he concludes, "They are Israelis."

[UJA Press Service]

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לשנה טובה תכתבו

Immigrants seeking better life in Israel

Like the patriarch Abraham, Isaac Bierman of Shymkent, Kazakhstan took a leap of faith when he decided to immigrate to Israel "to live with my people" and persuaded his wife, daughter and son-in-law to accompany him. Although one family, the Biermans are typical of hundreds of thousands of Jews from the former Soviet Union (FSU) who have immigrated to Israel since 1986.

But unlike the hundreds of thousands of other emigres, Bierman is among 133 immigrants who travelled to Israel on a plane with 40 American Jewish leaders who helped sponsor this freedom flight. The Americans were participants on the United Jewish Appeal/Federation Operation Exodus fact-finding Mission.

Surrounded by his American travelling companions, Isaac breathes a sigh of relief and says that for him, the anxiety is finally over.

Isaac, 62, was an English teacher in Shymkent. His wife Luva, 65, taught German, 33-year-old Isabelle was a music teacher and 35-year-old Vladimir Karminsky was a veterinarian. According to the Israeli Ministry of Immigrant Absorption, they are among the 75 percent of immigrants who arrive from the (FSU) with post-secondary school education, many in saturated fields.

"Obviously some of us will have to retrain," said Isaac, a thin man with thick unruly white hair.

Isaac spoke while riding in a chartered bus from a hotel in Tashkent, Uzbekistan to the airport. On his lap was blond-haired, two-year-old Arseni, one of his two grandsons. His other grandson, 11-year-old Artium, stood next to him.

Isaac Bierman sits with his daughter-in-law and grandson on the way to Tashkent Airport, from where they left for Israel.

Like the Biermans, nearly one thousand other Jews from the Central Asian Republics of the FSU pass through Tashkent airport each month on direct flights to Israel. This makes Tashkent one of the world's main centres for Jewish immigration to Israel.

"We are doing it for the grandchildren," Isaac said as he mussed Arseni's hair. "Since the breakup of the Soviet Union the economic situation in Kazakhstan has been difficult. Moving to Israel will not be easy but at least we'll be in our own land."

At the airport, Vladimir's four brothers and sister embraced him as he descended from the bus. They travelled 80 miles from Shymkent to say good bye.

"Seeing him leave makes my heart ache," said 43-year-old Luba, Vladimir's sister. "But my family and those of three of my brothers have also applied to go to Israel. We leave in four months' time."

The oldest brother, Yefim, 46, is married to a Russian woman who does not want to leave Kazakhstan.

"I want to go too, but that may be impossible," said Yefim. "It breaks my heart that I might never see my brothers and sister again."

Like Isaac, Luba said her planned immigration to Israel was both "because it is the land of the Bible" and because of economic conditions in the FSU. She said that high school education is no longer free in Kazakhstan and that, on her salary as an engineer, she cannot afford the tuition for her two children.

When the El Al 757 airplane landed at Israel's Ban Gurion Airport at 1:05 a.m., the Bierman family joined the other immigrants who were all led into a large hall for initial processing. Family by family, they were called into small rooms to receive documents and checks to cover their initial expenses for a month's rent, food or nursery school. They were told to open bank accounts, into which living allowance checks would be paid for the next six months while they learned Hebrew and found jobs.

The Biermans were then taken by bus to Ashdod, in southern Israel, to spend their first couple of days with cousins, Boris, 70, and Lucia, 72, who emigrated from the Ukraine two years earlier.

"Lucia has been writing to me for a year, encouraging us to come," Isaac said. "A month ago, I sent a letter with another immigrant telling them the date of our arrival. But the letter never reached them."

"At five in the morning, there was a banging on the door," said Boris. "I answered in my pajamas. It was the bus driver, telling me that my relatives were here."

After a breakfast of salad and cheese and several hours of conversation, Isaac and Vladimir insisted on going out with Boris to find apartments.

"There would be time to sleep later," said Vladimir. "We needed to get settled."

Isabelle was concerned with registering as quickly as possible for Hebrew classes. She was aware that Israel had a glut of music teachers and that she would have to retrain after learning the language.

During the search for apartments, Isaac was immediately struck by the difference between verdant Shymkent and Ashdod, which has few trees.

"I shall miss the greenery," Isaac lamented. "But one thing I will not miss is the stores in Shymkent where there are shortages of everything and things are very expensive. If you want tomatoes, you take the ones they give you. Here, you feel your freedom immediately in the small things, like the ability to select the finest vegetables for reasonable prices."

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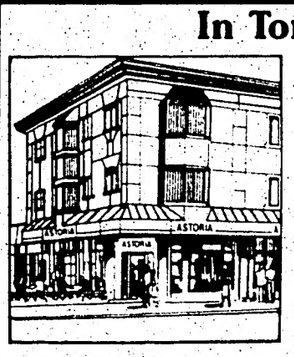

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Arab Municipal library expands in Jerusalem

By JON ELKINS

Finding the new Arab Municipal library in East Jerusalem is easy. The broad, modern Levantine structure, with oriental arches, arabeques gates and pink Jerusalem stone glowing with newness, stands out among the other buildings of East Jerusalem. The sign reading "The Jerusalem Central Library," however, does not. Tucked back behind the flourishes of the library's gates, this seeming contradiction reflects the library's policy of keeping a low political profile while being actively prominent within the local Arab community.

The original Arab Central Library was founded in the early 1960's when East Jerusalem was under Jordanian rule. In 1967, with the reunification of the city, the library was incorporated into the Jerusalem municipality and the Jerusalem Department of Libraries.

Chief librarian, Galib Abel-Hess, hired by the Jordanians in 1962, remained in his position even when the library came under Israeli jurisdiction. With their advanced grasp of library science, the Israelis quickly helped the staff improve the library's facilities and service. "We found ourselves treated like professionals," says Abel-Hess.

From 1967 to 1975, the library added 30,000 new books in Arabic to its collection, all of which had to be imported from Italy and France at extremely high prices due to the Arab boycott of Israel.

The library's success resulted in the opening of satelite branches throughout the Arab sectors of Jerusalem, and a mobile library toured the poorer sections of the city on a daily basis. "It was wonderful," says Abel-Hess. "We had thousands of readers, especially children, who couldn't come to the centres."

As membership grew, the library's staff realized that their public's growing enthusiasm had outgrown the library's meager facilities. They approached Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek for help.

Kollek was convinced and in 1985 donated the funds received from his German Editors' Association's Peace Prize, toward building the library a new facility in the heart of East Jerusalem. With this jump start, the Jerusalem Foundation was able to raise over a million dollars for the library from Gorman Friends of Jerusalem.

Despite the library's determination to stay out of the political fray, in 1987, in the wake of the intifada, many in the Arab community began to view the library as a symbol of the city's token efforts to placate its Arab citizens and stayed away as a sign of protest. Even the mobile library, which carried the city's municipal symbol, was stoned several times and had to shut down.

Unexpectedly, though, the intifada at times actually increased the library's readership. When, for security reasons, the universities in Judea and Samaria, hot-beds of anti-Israel activity, were temporarily closed, the students sought out the library.

But by the inaugural ceremony of the new building in May 1992, library attendance was back to normal Nasser Edlin-Nashashibi, a well-known journalist from a prominent Palestinian family, made the following remarks at the ceremony: "History confirms that education, culture and civilization have no religion, no home, no nationality, and no borders. Knowledge always proceeds sovereignty, flags or national anthems. We are all pro-literacy verses illiteracy."

Abel-Hess continued to insist that his domain remain a haven from both political and tactical battlefields and ordered books on topics ranging from the environment to Islam, with one notable exception. "Political books are something we try to keep away from," he says. "Although we are free to buy whatever books we want, we prefer not to involve ourselves in politics." Able-Hess is more interested in creating an environment where children and youth can enjoy reading for reading's sake. "When a child reads, he is introduced to another world," he says.

Mayor Kollek envisioned the library as a place where Arabs and Jews could meet in an intellectual environment. To that end a committee was formed, composed of both Arabs and Jews, to oversee activities at the library and to publicize the library's cause.

The committee consisted of ten prominent Palestinians, including Hanna Siniora, a leading Palestinian journalist and community leader. The committee, since disbanded, initiated some ground-breaking projects, such as Hebrew classes for Arabs interested in increasing their contact with the Jewish community.

The Hebrew classes are thriving today and the total number of library members jumped from 400 to 2,000 in the first six months of its existence. Six times the number of books were borrowed during this period than from the old library in a similar period. "It lifted our spirits. Who could have imagined such a jump," says Abel-Hess.

Arabic students of English literature have shown enormous interest in the library, which has a small collection of books in English, as well as English books, such as Shakespeare, translated into Arabic.

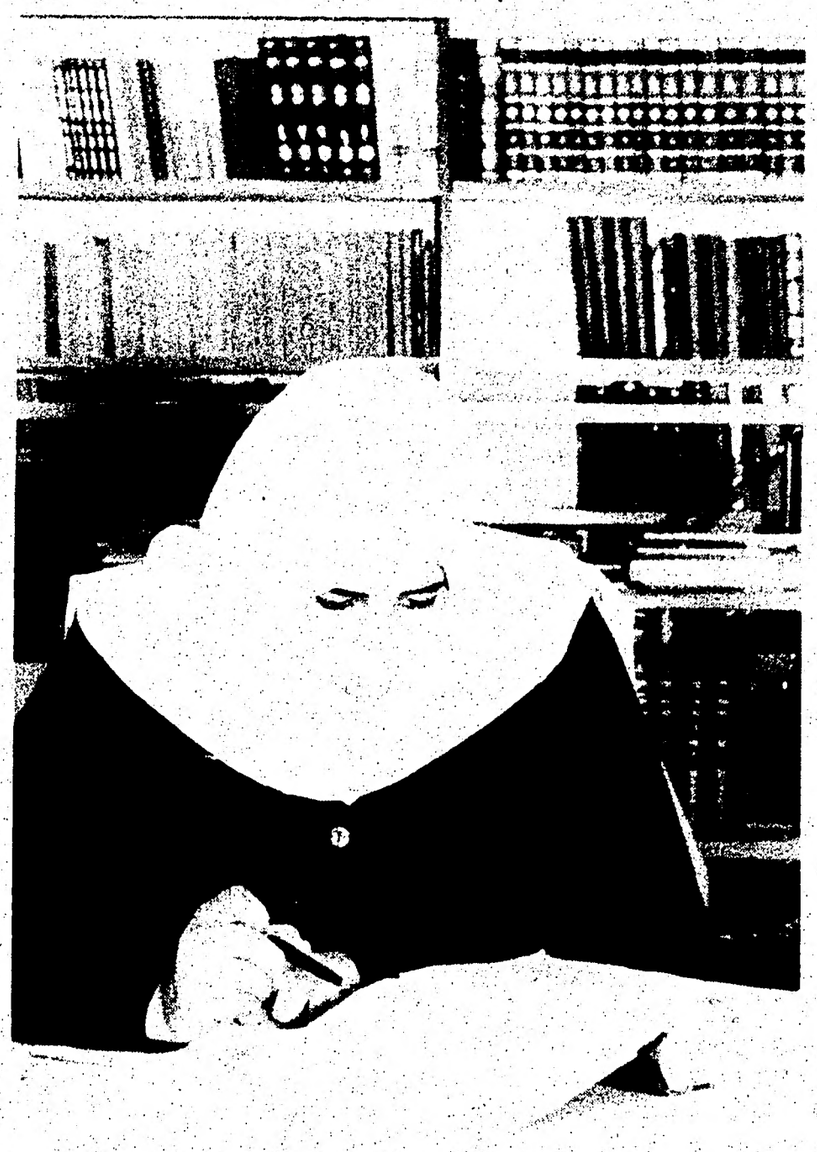
One group of English Literature students from Bethlehem University I encountered at the library, were quite enthusiastic about the new facility, though they did complain about the noise from the high school kids, the need for more English books, and the lack of "books about Palestinian rights."

Urged on by their overall success, Abel-Hess and his staff are currently trying to expand the facility further. They want to double their book collection — which has already tripled — to increase activities in their cultural centre and to purchase more audio visual equipment, such as videotapes for children.

The library is also looking for a computer system to catalogue every Arabic book throughout Israel's library system. "We hope we will be able to move our library into the modern era," says Abel-Hess.

Until now Abel-Hess has managed to keep the library's "head" above the stormy political waters, and he believes that if and when peace comes, his small corner of East Jerusalem will truly flourish. "We can't fight forever," he says.

— WZPS



Arab girl reading in The Jerusalem Central Library. [WZPS photo]

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Israel's past treasures delay trek towards future

By MIKE ROGOFF

Throw a pebble in any direction in Jerusalem, the local adage goes, and you're sure to hit an ancient site. But identifying long-hidden sites is not all that archaeologists face; excavating in the face of rival interests can often be equally frustrating.

A living antiquity, Jerusalem's intense concentration of relics results in the frequent appearance of archaeological finds in city development projects, regularly delaying construction. This has been a particular problem during the last year. Archaeology, then, must squeeze itself between the cracks of an existing cityscape of buildings and streets, where development plans for the future are constantly being threatened.

According to city archaeologist Zvi Greenhut, the heady days of intensive planned expeditions, like those after Jerusalem's reunification in 1967, are over. Excavations then were large-scale, exposing the monumental public works and splendid dwellings of ancient Jerusalem, from the Biblical kings of Judah to King Herod the Great and the Byzantine period. "More recently, however, urban development projects have unearthed archaeological finds in the most unexpected places," says Greenhut. "We then have to do emergency salvage digs to study and, if possible, preserve the sites."

And there have been a number of emergencies. In November 1992, the builders of the new Highway 1, north of the Old City's Damascus Gate, exposed the ruins of a rare 5th-century CE Armenian monastery. The Armenian community was exultant, the road-planners dismayed. Eventually, the site was excavated, the finds given to the Armenians, and the road completed. Not all serendipitous discoveries end quite as well, however.

In July 1992, the expansion of the Binyanei Ha'ooma Convention Center near the city's western exit, hit on the remains of the Roman Tenth Legion's camp which garrisoned Jerusalem in the first century CE. An archaeological site was unexpected in this part of the city, and by the time archaeologists arrived on the scene, much damage had already been done.

In January 1992, a new housing project in the Pisgat Ze'ev neighborhood north of the city unearthed a Byzantine monastery, a mikvah and other evidence of settlement. The Ministry of Housing and Development's architects stopped work until the excavations had revealed the extent of the ruins, and plans were revised to incorporate them in a park at the centre of the neighborhood. "They managed to incorporate the past in the present," noted Greenhut with satisfaction.

A large church and monastery were discovered in December 1993 on the road between Jerusalem and Bethlehem, which Greek Orthodox Patriarch Diodorus I claimed proved "the Greek influence that existed for hundreds of years in the Holy Land." In view of finds discovered during a salvage excavation, it was agreed that plans to widen the highway would incorporate the finds.

Discoveries of tombs in recent months have created news of a different kind. The ambitious Mamilla Project across from Jaffa Gate, will create an upscale cluster of commercial, residential and tourist sites. Work on the infrastructure has exposed ancient walls, an aqueduct, a bath-house and a Byzantine tomb. The crosses, the adjacent chapel facing east, and the character of the Greek inscription clearly labelled the site as Christian; but ultra-Orthodox circles were not convinced that the tomb's original denizens might not have been Jewish. The work on the site ground to a halt while the debate continued. In early January 1993, the Antiquities Authority finally gave permission to clear the caves amid vociferous protests from the ultra-Orthodox.

Less ambiguous were the nine Second Temple period tombs, almost certainly Jewish, uncovered in the French Hill neighborhood in November 1992. Roadworks to relieve the rush-hour traffic congestion at the city's north-eastern exit were stopped while the municipal authorities, the ultra-Orthodox community and the archaeologists publicly sniped at each other. Tombs create a particular problem in Jerusalem, where the ancient ban on burial within the Holy City spawned a vast necropolis that surrounded it.

In response to religious demands to leave the site untouched, archaeologists point to the hundreds of tombs which have been excavated over the years. Any human remains were passed to the religious community for reburial, and the site either preserved as an antiquity or released for development to continue. The Jerusalem Municipality, piqued at the outright rejection of its compromise proposals, seemed (at press-time) bent on going ahead with the road-building despite the opposition and even violent street demonstrations, though a court restraining order achieved by the religious camp stood in its way. In late January 1993, the High Court of Justice ruled that the Antiquities Authority had the right to clear the burial cave that was at the centre of the controversy. The decision sparked riots in Jerusalem's ultra-Orthodox Meah Shearim neighborhood where rocks were thrown at policemen and trash bins set on fire.

In archaeology as in other areas, a vibrant new-old nation seeks its past, but the rival visions of that past and its meaning for the future is the stuff of which Israeli politics are made.

— WZPA

Greek Orthodox Patriarch Diodoros I inspects a mosaic floor at the site where a large church and monastery were discovered between Bethlehem and Jerusalem, December 1992. [WZPS photo]

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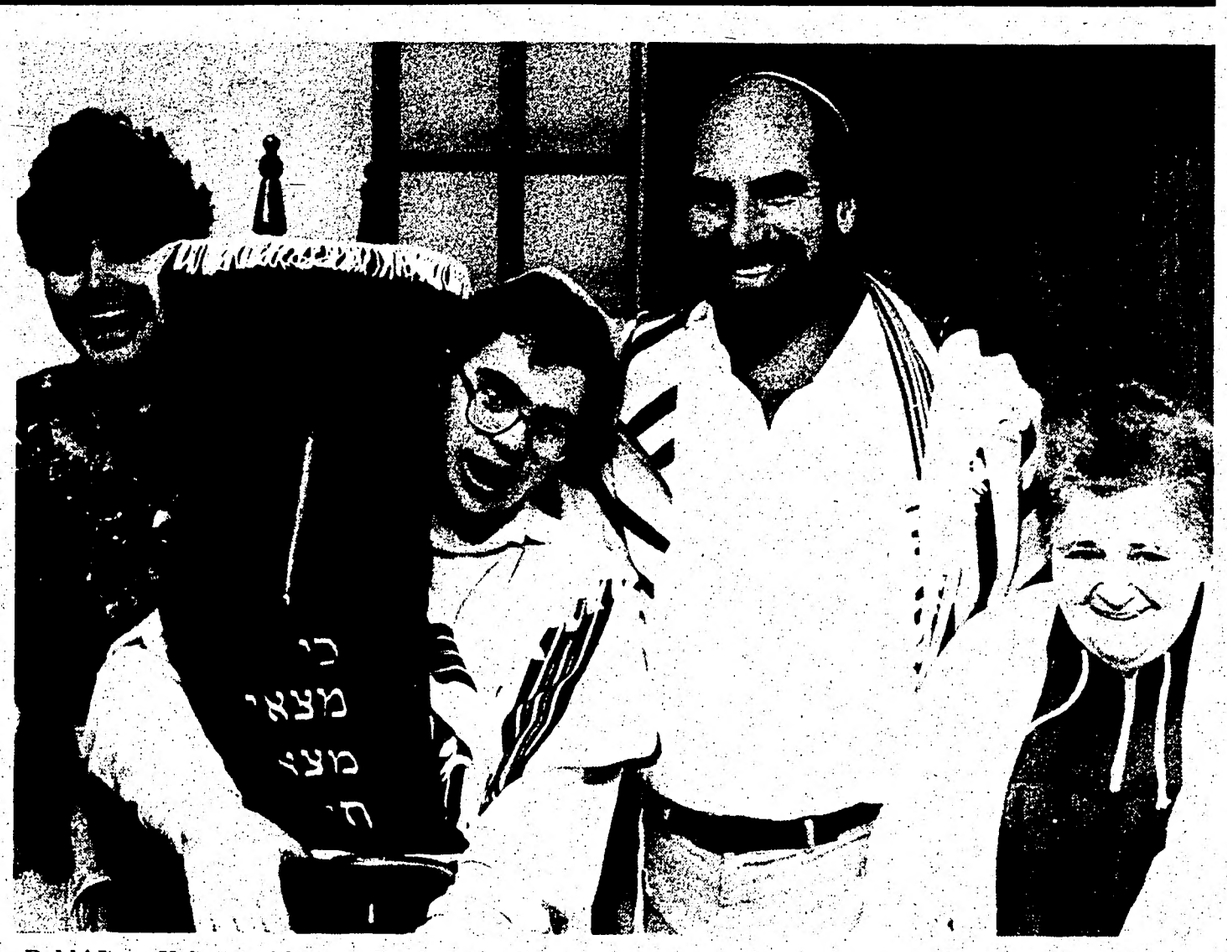

Rabbi Levy Kelman with mentally challenged residents of Baka's Irena Gaster-Akim Hostel [WZPS photo]

Jerusalem synagogue decidedly not traditional

By LISA SAMIN

In the trendy Jerusalem neighborhood of Baka sits a building whose presence has the uncanny ability to ignite tempers at any time. It is Kol Haneshama, a community synagogue, started from a newspaper ad placed by Rabbi Levy Kelman seven years ago calling for an egalitarian, traditionally-oriented congregation.

Thirty-five people attended the first services on Rosh Hashanah in 1985. On Yom Kippur, ten days later, 100 people attended, firmly establishing the first synagogue in the area under the auspices of the Israel Movement for Progressive (Reform) Judaism.

"The response convinced me that there was clearly a need for such a synagogue," says the charismatic Kelman, who made aliya from New York City in 1979.

The neighborhood — undergoing a metamorphosis from the traditional veteran Israelis who came with few possessions in the 1950's, to a young, flourishing, non-Orthodox middle-class population able to afford the new luxury homes — has witnessed an inflow of anglo-saxons and immigrants from Western countries who make up the greater part of the congregation. "But all the services are in Hebrew," Kelman quickly adds.

Services held in clubhouse

For its first year, Kol Haneshama's services were held in the Labor Party's local clubhouse, but in 1986 the Orthodox community rabbis openly opposed the synagogue and pressured the Labor Party to discontinue the arrangement. Nevertheless, Kol Haneshama continued to flourish, and by the following year over 250 members were attending services in the community centre's gymnasium.

Later in 1986, media attention was focused on Kol Haneshama when Orthodox protests disrupted Simchat Torah celebrations. "We do not want our neighborhood poisoned by their presence," was the refrain.

Said one religious resident of Baka, "I do not condone the action of the Orthodox, but these people are trying to change the laws set down in the Torah, to change the religion. This is absolutely intolerable."

The outcry convinced Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek to help Kol Haneshama obtain municipal land in Baka for the building of a synagogue. The new 250-seat building under construction is already too small to house the blossoming congregation now numbered at 200 families, mainly from Baka and its environs.

Friday night service begins with meditation and the prayers, too, are punctuated with periods of meditation, as well as long periods of chanting "nigunim" (melodies without words). Services end with a prayer for peace in Hebrew and Arabic, reflecting the congregants high degree of political awareness.

But religious friction and inner reflection are just two of the multi-faceted elements Kol Haneshama has brought to the neighborhood. Their community outreach programs are felt in many parts of Baka, such as their recently established nursery school for two- to three-year-olds.

Surprisingly, the majority of children enrolled in the school are totally secular Israelis. "Many secular Israelis are not looking for a synagogue to belong to," says Kelman, "but they do want to give their children a religious education with an open approach to Judaism."

According to Kelman, Kol Haneshama affords Israelis a comfortable way to connect to Judaism. "Too many Israelis buy the line that authentic Judaism is Orthodox. Either they do everything or nothing. Because many people are not willing to practice Judaism in its entirety, they reject the religion altogether," says Kelman.

Gershon and Nurit Cohen, both teachers, send their three-year-old daughter Tal to the Kol Haneshama nursery school. Gershon is one of the few Israelis of Yemenite origin involved with Kol Haneshama. "There is a feeling of openness which we, as secular Jews, hadn't found anywhere else," he says.

This openness extends to Baka's Irena Gaster-Akim Hostel, a home for mentally-challenged adults. Says Director Sarah Sherman, "The give and take between the congregants of Kol Haneshama and our members has strengthened both in so many positive ways."

To name a few, more than half of the hostel's 29 adults attend services at the synagogue on a particular Friday night or Saturday, and they have been truly accepted by the congregation. They make challah, help set up the kiddush and participate in the services. In turn, congregants volunteer at the hostel. "A large part of being mentally challenged is the feeling that nobody needs you," says Sherman. "Kol Haneshama has opened its heart to these people, making them feel needed. It is the greatest blessing you can give them. One of our members is going to have a belated bar mitzvah ceremony at the synagogue, and his pride is a joy to see."

Visit women's shelter

Says Evelyn, a graphic artist living in Baka, "Although I have no religious affiliation, I have heard remarkable things about Kol Haneshama and particularly about their work with Akim."

In addition, every Friday afternoon congregants visit Baka's Shelter for Battered Women and make a "Kabbalat Shabbat" ceremony with the women and their children to welcome the sabbath. The Akim adults are also involved with the shelter, and the connection between these three groups lends the neighborhood a special flavor.

Congregants have been instrumental in absorbing Ethiopian newcomers in the area. They have adopted families, inviting them to their homes and helping them adjust to the day-to-day reality of living in Israel. "I've heard about their work with immigrants," says Baka resident and technical writer Pam Novak, "and I think its wonderful that they're helped when they come to the neighborhood." "Sometimes just one caring person can make the whole difference in a newcomer's successful acclimation," adds Kelman. — WZPS

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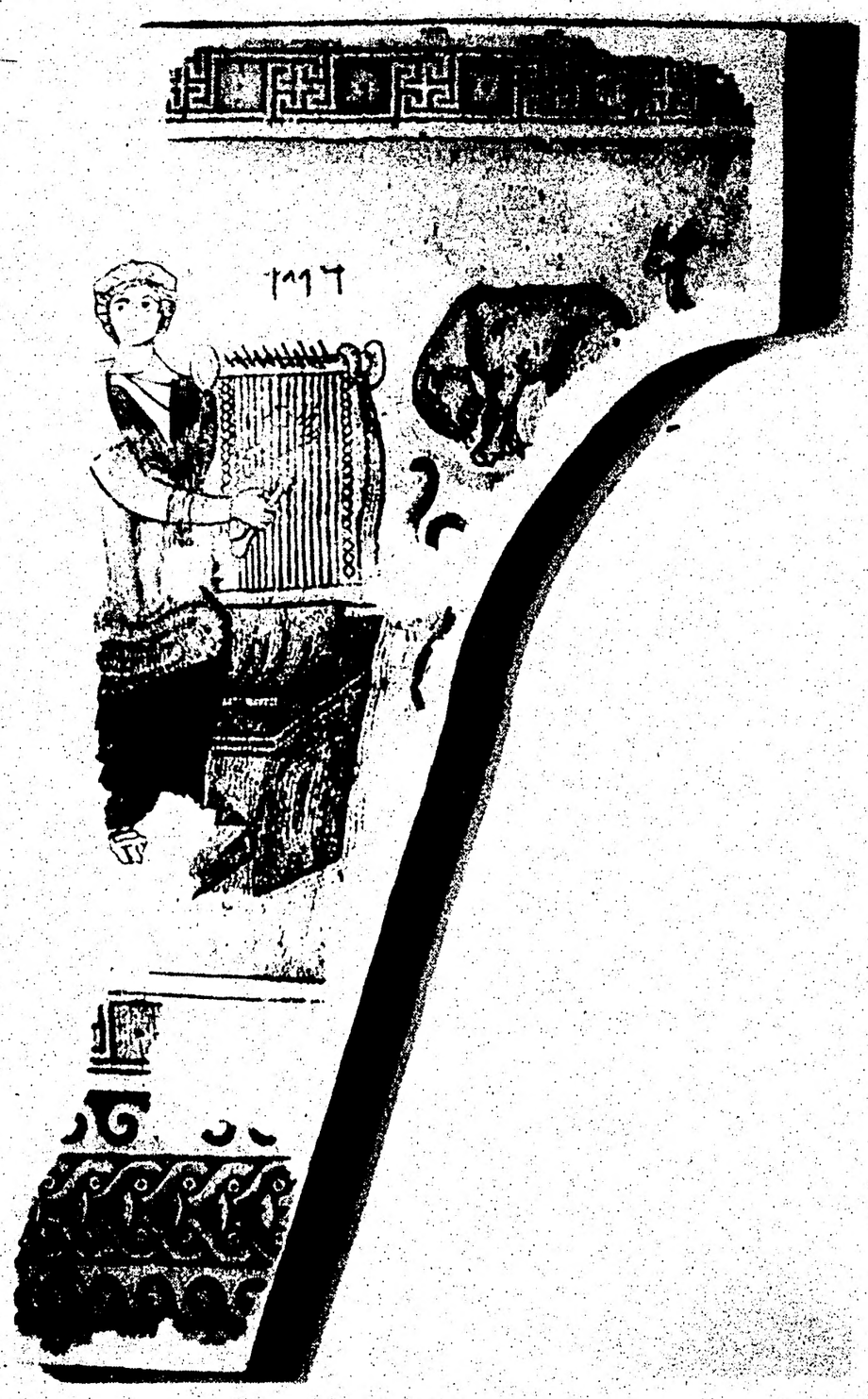

A mosaic of King David playing a lyre, reconstructed by the Institute of Computer Science with a technique called computer warping. [WZPS photo]

Computer technology may revolutionize driving

By JON ELKINS

Computer driven cars? Computers that comprehend human speech and cursive handwriting? Such computer wizardry is to be found at the newly established Institute of Computer Science at the Hebrew University, which is helping pave the way to the future while building bridges to the past.

One of the most exciting of the Institute's laboratories is the Intelligent Robotic Sensing (IRS). As its name suggests, it concentrates on developing computer-guided machines to listen to a driver's spoken instructions and drive autonomously, guided by a television camera looking at the road. The day a driver can sleep during his morning commute to the office, however, is still far off.

According to director Shmuel Peleg, the Institute is developing computer technology to allow for automatic braking of a car if the driver takes a turn too sharp or gets too close to the car in front. If a driver is drunk — apparent from the way the car is driven — the computer will pull the car off the road and turn off the ignition.

Another IRS effort is exploring the computer's ability to look at its environment and interpret what it sees. Doctoral student Michal Irani is currently developing a program which can automatically erase images from a video sequence, leaving the background intact, and is excited about the program's implications. "Imagine that you're shooting a movie and after four months your main actor quits. You can either shoot the whole thing again, or remove his image and replace it with that of a different actor."

"Of course, a number of ethical questions arise in light of this new technology," says Peleg. " 'Seeing is believing' will not work anymore."

Another IRS project which promises to revolutionize the world of personal computers is speech and handwriting recognition. Using current technology, computers can understand very basic spoken commands and handwriting printed in block letters. At the Institute, computer programs are being created to comprehend both fluent human speech and cursive handwriting. When perfected, a corporate executive will be able to take notes at a meeting to be relayed on to his computer, or dictate a letter directly to his PC.

According to doctorial candidate Yoram Singer, "The Hebrew University is way ahead of the field in this type of research." Only Stanford University, with a staff five times the size of the Institute and budget to match, can boast an equally sophisticated approach.

The Institute, meanwhile, has rejected a large grant from an American company, preferring to wait for donations from Israeli businessmen. Says Singer, "We prefer to keep it all in the family, even if funding is limited."

Recently asked to solve a unique Israeli problem, the Institute's computer technology helped restore a 1,500-year-old mosiaic of King David.

Discovered in Gaza in 1965 by a team of Egyptian archeologists, the mosaic is a remnant from a large synagogue built on the shores of Gaza during the Byzantine period. It depicts King David, cloaked in imperial Byzantine style, playing a lyre for an enraptured audience of animals. Unfortunately, for reasons still not perfectly clear, the mosaic was badly damaged soon after the excavation and large sections of the mosaic, including David's face and hands, were destroyed.

The mosaic came into Israeli hands immediately after the Six Day War, when Israeli archeologists gained control of the site. Anxious to restore the art work, curators at the Israel Museum were hampered by the fact that the only remaining photographs of the intact mosaic had been shot at an oblique angle and the features of David's face were distorted. The mosaic languished for several years in the basement of the Rockefeller Museum until one of the restorers decided to seek assistance from the Hebrew University.

Using a technique called computer warping, the IRS lab compared original photographs with more recent photographs of David's body, taken from above, and the computer then mathematically repositioned the original photos to coincide with the new ones. To the delight of museum curators, the computer displayed a face distinct enough for restoration.

Today, the mosaic stands proudly in the Israel Museum's archeological wing, hands and all. — WZPS

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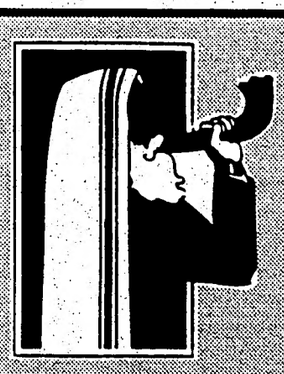
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Developers realize potential of Manhat

By CAROL UNGAR

A once sleepy valley in the southwest corner of Jerusalem is soon to become the city's next downtown. Nestled between the Holyland hotel and the Gilo neighborhood, an area once bordering Jordan, the Manhat Valley was largely overlooked until Jerusalem's reunification in 1967. Even then, only nature lovers who enjoyed its rich display of native flora and fauna were aware of its existence, and the residents of Malha, an old Arab village on the adjoining hillside which was abandoned in 1948 and resettled by Jewish immigrants.

Over 20 years later, the developers woke up and seized Manhat with a vengeance. The first project to capture the headlines was the $25 million soccer stadium named in honor of Jerusalem's outgoing mayor Teddy Kollek. The 12,000 seat arena, which houses the rival Hapoel and Betar Jerusalem teams, opened its doors in September 1992 after a long and bitter controversy. For some 15 years, the powerful ultra-Orthodox Knesset and City Hall factions opposed the stadium, perceiving Saturday game-playing as an unpardonable desecration of the Sabbath.

Equipped with the latest in sporting technology, the stadium is a welcome change from the antiquated YMCA playing field the teams previously called home.

Below the stadium is the 12-year-old Israel Tennis Centre. Non-profit, its coaching program for children provides an outlet for constructive behavior, develops understanding between immigrants and Israelis of varied ethnic backgrounds, and trains gifted players for local and international tournaments.

The Goldberg Sports Hall, a modern, 2,200-seat basketball stadium, opened its doors in 1982. In addition to holding regular basketball games, it also has regular exercise classes for adults, classes in gymnastics for children and Israeli dancing.

In fact the area is fast becoming an international sports centre, the soccer stadium hosting the finale of last fall's Jerusalem marathon and the basketball stadium a recent international judo championship. Adjoining the sports complex is a brand new shopping mall — Canion Jerusalem — initiated by Canadian-Israeli developer David Azrieli. Opened this spring, it is reputed to be the largest indoor shopping and entertainment complex in the Middle East.

The $80 million mall has 36,500 square metres of retail space, with international fashion branches such as Laura Ashley and Benetton, branches of the country's two leading rival department stores, Hamashbir Lezarchan and Shekem, a large supermarket and an eight-cinema complex.

Several kosher fast food restaurants feature panoramic picture windows with spectacular views of the valley, and Azriel has commissioned murals by Israeli artist Ivan Schwebel. A 62 metre clock tower is visible from all over Jerusalem, and relics dating from the Canaanite period, unearthed during excavations, are displayed at an on-site museum.

Although several members of the Jerusalem City Council have publicly expressed skepticism about the need for yet another mall, especially in today's recessionary climate, Azrieli is optimistic about profit potential. "Jerusalem is Israel's most populous city," he observes. "Even if a lot of people spend small sums of money, the investors will still turn a profit."

A 15-acre technology park is at present under construction and is expected to open in 1993. Dedicated to science-based and high-tech industries, the $50 million park will offer rental premises to blend with the unique landscape, to electronics, pharmaceuticals, biotech, optics, telecommunications and software industries.

Another neighbor in the valley is the Jerusalem Zoological Park. Until last year, the zoo, better known as the Jerusalem Biblical Zoo for its world famous collection of biblical birds and beasts, was located in the heart of a heavily populated residential district.

Approximately 75 acres large, five times the size of its predecessor, the zoo's animals live in conditions as similar to those in the wild as a zoo can provide. Birds and other creatures swim in artificial lakes and pools and cages remain open, separated from the visitors by a unique system of canals.

Nature films in an on-site auditorium are regular feature, and children can touch farm animals at the zoo's petting and feeding section.

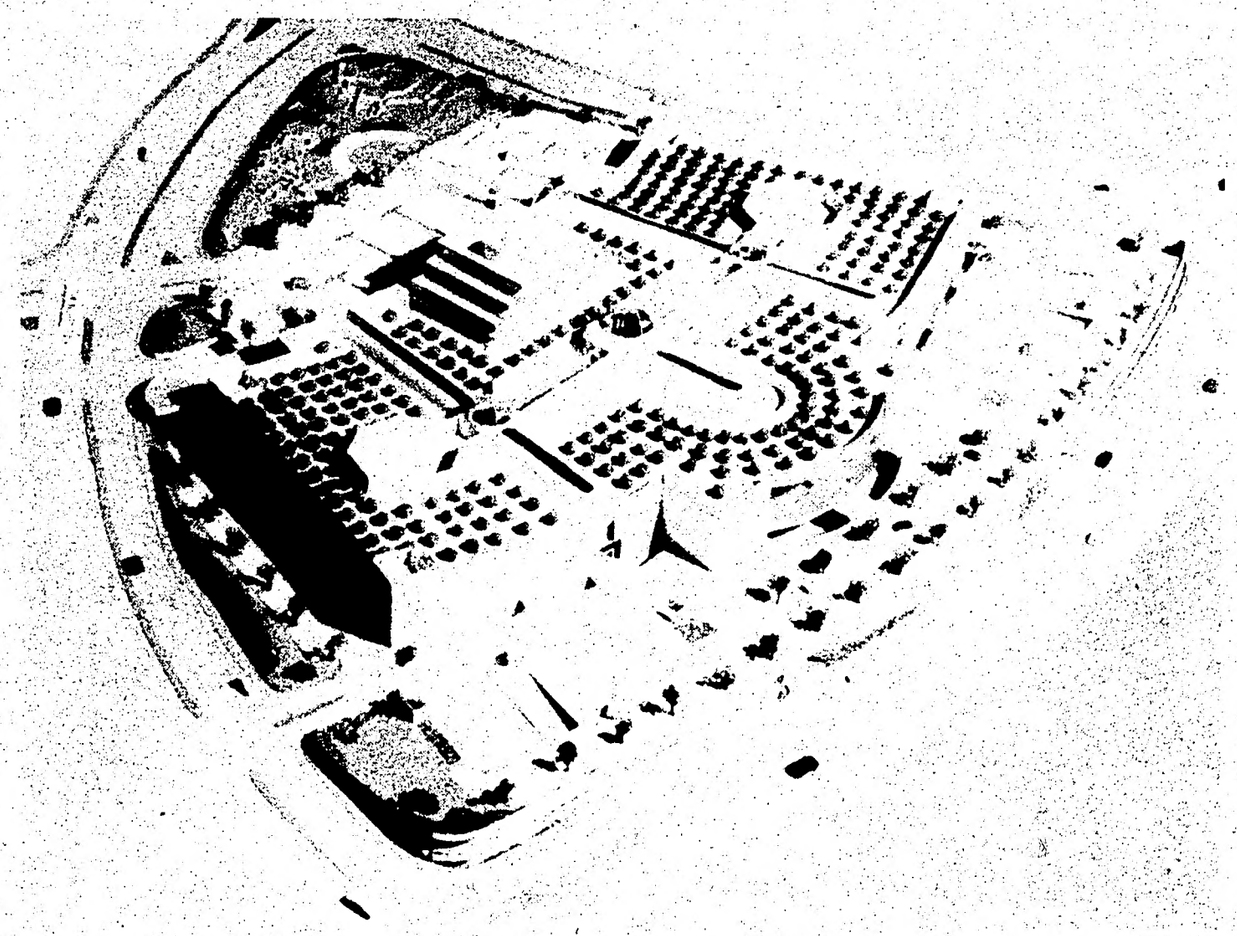
At present, Malha/Manhat is virtually unreachable by public transportation, but this will soon change, says the Jerusalem Development Authority's Shlomit Raday. "A large bus station will service all of south Jerusalem, and a new train station will link the complex to the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv railway," she says. This will be the first new train station in the capital since the city was under Turkish rule.

Roads connecting the city's other neighborhood to the complex are also being improved. "It will soon be possible to drive from Ramot (a suburb at the city's northernmost tip) to Malha without any stops," says Raday.

But not everybody is entirely thrilled with this development. "This used to be a quiet and untouched place with a great deal of natural beauty, wild flowers and gazelles," says one resident, echoing the sentiments of most of his fellow neighbors. "Now it's becoming busy and noisy."

One corner of the valley, however, will remain in its pristine state. Ein Yael, a nature reserve and open air archaeology museum, offers visitors well-preserved remains of a first century Roman temple, an almost perfectly preserved mosaic floor and an olive oil press, along with a stunning display of the valley's natural beauty.

— WZPS



A model of the Canion Jerusalem shopping and entertainment complex.

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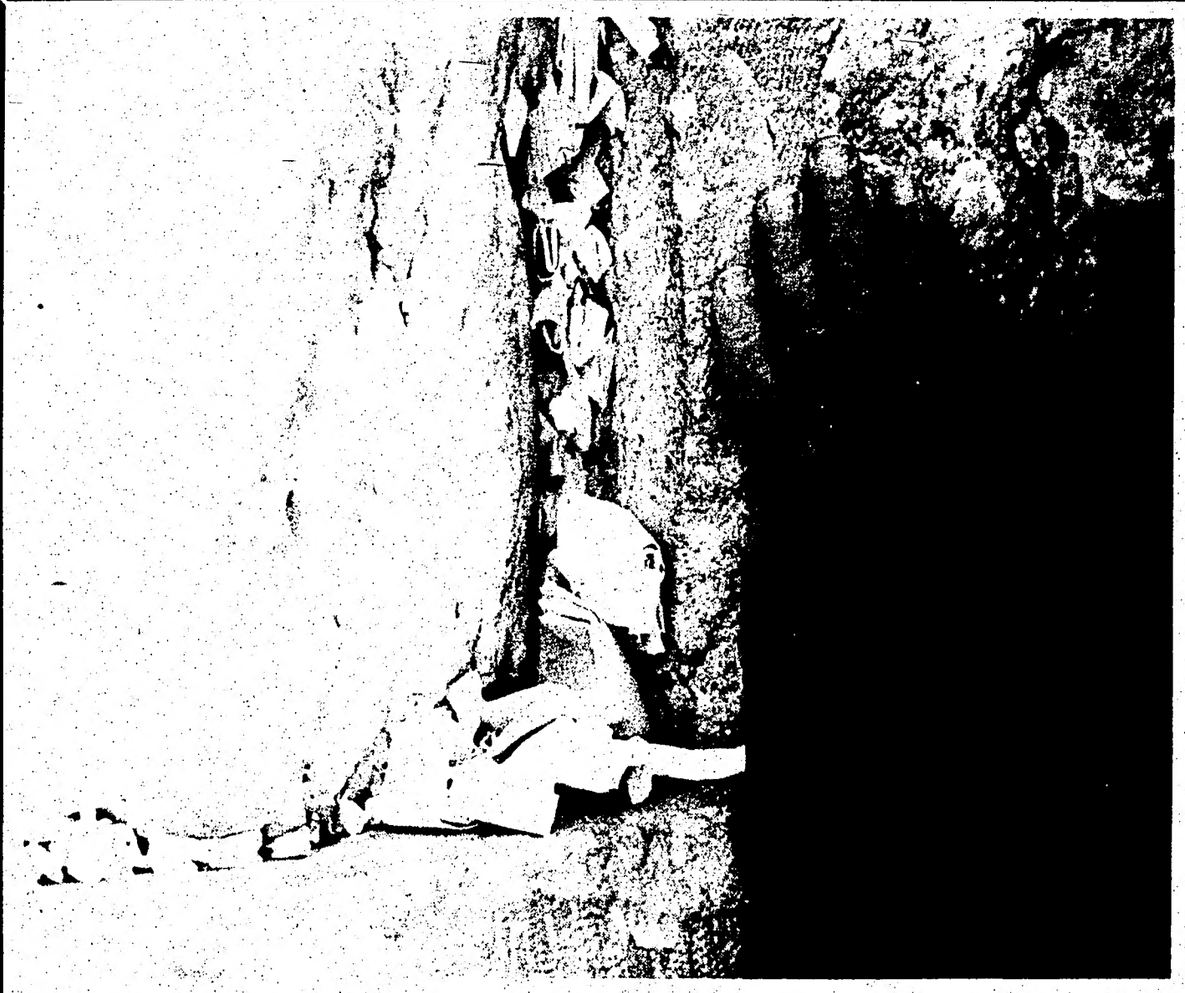

Cracks in Western Wall filled with notes and faxes. [WZPS photo]

Fax service updates God's post office

By SIMON GRIVER

God has no telephone number but he is now closer than ever to being on-line. Thanks to Bezeq, Israel's telecommunications corporation, a new service, "Fax LeKotel" (Fax to the Western Wall), is attracting if not divine interest, then certainly the imagination of the world.

Faxed messages can be sent to a Jerusalem telephone number from anywhere in the world, and a special courier personally delivers the prayer or wish, folding up the quarto size faxed message and placing it in the Kotel, Judaism's holiest shrine.

It has been a centuries old tradition to leave notes in the cracks of the Wall, which has sometimes been called God's post office.

At the service's inauguration in January 1993, the Western Wall plaza was packed with television cameras and foreign journalists to record the first batch of messages being placed in the Wall.

"Fifty messages arrived on the first day," says Bezeq spokesman Zecharia Mizrutsky. "And by the end of the first week we were receiving 150 messages a day."

The question of space, apparently, doesn't arise as the notes either naturally break down over time or are blown out of the Wall's cracks by the strong Jerusalem wind.

The messages' contents are confidential, although Mizrutsky is prepared to reveal that 70 percent of the faxes originate from overseas. "Most come from America and Western Europe," he says, "though we have also received faxes from Japan and India. Judging by the amount of correspondence from the Deep South and Mid-West in the U.S.A., the Scandinavian countries and Germany, it is safe to assume that many of the messages are from non-Jews."

Mizrutsky has not yet heard of any of the faxes being answered. "We can only leave the messages," he says. "Whether or not God gets back to the caller is His prerogative."

— WZPS

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לשנה טובה תכתבו

Soviet immigrants learn truth of Holocaust

When the Nazis marched into Leningrad, Vladimir Pozen and his parents led to safety in distant Uzbekistan. After the war, the Pozens returned to Leningrad (now called St. Petersburg), to find that their relatives, along with other Jews, had been slaughtered by the advancing German troops.

Despite their shock and grief, the Pozens, similar to most Soviet Jews, did not know the full extent of the Holocaust. Vladimir Pozen explains, "For years official Soviet history obscured the fact that Jews were the prime targets of the Nazis. You will not find anything written about Jewish victims of Nazi aggression in any of the books published under the former Soviet regime."

The blackout on the Holocaust is being lifted for Soviet Jewish immigrants to Israel by bringing Israeli and new immigrant survivors together. Among those actively lifting the veil on what for many has been a private nightmare, is former prisoner of Zion, Yosef Mendelevich.

Mendelevich is one of the participants in a Jewish Agency funded program called Ot Va'Ed. Ot Va'Ed addresses the significance of the Holocaust in Jewish spiritual thought. The group takes its name from Isaiah 19:20, "And it shall be for a sign (Ot) and for a witness (E'd) unto the Lord of Hosts, for they shall cry unto the Lord because of the oppressors, and He will send to them a savior."

The Jewish Agency, which has a special allocation for innovative projects, is supported by American Jews through their contributions to the UJA/Federation campaigns. These campaigns have also been pivotal in the immigration and absorption of hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews as well as the entire Ethiopian Jewish community.

Haim Levinovich, 47, director of Ot Va'Ed, has a special interest in both the Holocaust and the establishment of the State of Israel. Levinovich's mother arrived in Israel on the eve of World War II from a small town near Auschwitz. Later, her entire family perished in Auschwitz. She married and had two children before her young husband was killed in the 1948 War of Independence. Haim was 2-years-old. Today he says, "I cannot question the strength of my mother's faith or that of the Jewish people. We have kept faith despite the worst torments and we have not been disappointed."

The group's primary work is to conduct seminars for high school students. Yearly, they reach more than 30,000 Israeli students and a large number of visiting groups.

Former prisoner of Zion Yosef Mendelevich (left) teaches Soviet immigrants to Israel about the Holocaust.

Levinovich explains, "We stress the meaning of the Holocaust within the framework of Judaism and Israel."

Ot Va'Ed emphasizes the universal significance of the Holocaust for Jews everywhere. Discussing Soviet immigrants, Levinovich points out, "Bringing together Israeli Holocaust survivors and Soviet immigrants, who suffered at the hands of the Nazis, shows them that they belong in Israel, where they have a shared heritage."

Pozen agrees and says, "Our common heritage has drawn all of us closer together." Pozen, who has been greatly enlightened by the Ot Va'Ed seminars, believes the topic needs to be discussed beyond the borders of Israel. Emphatically, he says, "Now that there is more freedom in Russia and in Ukraine, we must see to it that people there are told the truth about the Holocaust."

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לשנה טובה תכתבו

Former refuseniks exposed to a new world

"Missing out on 10 years of science was a real tragedy," says entomologist Igor Uspensky, 53, who together with his wife and fellow researcher, Inna, 60, was a leading refusenik in Moscow. But looking back on those refusenik years from their home in the Datamon neighborhood of Jerusalem, they recall them with mixed feelings.

Unable to work as scientists, compelled to do unskilled work, and subject to constant harassment, the refusenik movement proved a tireless source of inspiration and support, exposing them to a world beyond that of science. "Our refusenik days were in some ways the best period of our lives. Even though we were full of hate at times, we were always inspired," says Inna.

Being a refusenik was also a preliminary step in the absorption process, says Igor: "As activists, we began our preparation for making aliyah very early. We knew quite a bit about Israel by the time we arrived." Nevertheless, the couple recognize that their "rehabilitation" in the scientific world will be a gradual process.

Both were lucky to find work soon after their aliyah in November 1990 — Inna in the Department of Parasitology of the Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical School and Igor at the University's Institute of Life Sciences. Further recognition of their scientific integrity came when they were awarded the Courage in Science award by the National Pest Control Association of the United States for their "scientific achievements and undying efforts to maintain their personal and professional freedom."

"We have strong scientific backgrounds," says Igor. "This helped us greatly after such a long absence from our profession. Our main problem, though, is involving ourselves in the scientific community here. We still have a lot to learn; it's so different from the former Soviet Union, but much more vibrant and interesting. We are still learning, for example, how to write projects, how to get funding, and how to apply for it. As soon as one of my grant applications has been accepted, I'll feel I've made it."

For the time being, both Igor and Inna are paid by a special three-year government program for new immigrant scientists; Igor's from the ministry of absorption and Inna's from the ministry of science. Their main worry is what will happen to them and the many other immigrant scientists when that funding comes to an end.

In the meantime, the Uspenksys are still revelling in the joy of their whole family finally being free. This includes Inna's brother Alex Ioffe, the eminent mathematician, his wife and son, who settled in Haifa, and Igor's 80-year old mother, who now lives with him.

Igor and Inna's own arrival was preceded by their 24-year-old son Slava who today lives in Neve Daniel, a religious settlement in Gush Etzion, with his wife and three small children.

Neither Igor nor Inna are religious, but they are, says Inna, full of admiration for their son, who studied with teacher and spiritual leader Ze'ev Dashevsky in Moscow. "We are learning a lot about the country and Judaism from our son and his family. It's good to see that he has found a way of life which has meaning for him."

For Igor and Inna, the most urgent issue in Israel today is absorption. "As refuseniks in Russia, we all tried to help each other. This made me realize that I must continue to help here."

Together with Goke Ponsen, a Dutch Christian woman who campaigned for the Uspenskys during their refusenik days, Inna initiated a family-to-family adoption project with Christian families living in Holland and needy new immigrant families in Israel. Twenty-five families to date, some of them single parents, receive a monthly allowance of 100 Dutch guilders ($56) and clothing from their Dutch "family;" in return they write them about life in Israel.

"It is a real lesson in humanity and human kindness," says Inna. "Knowing that the support, however minimal, is regular and constant is of great psychological benefit."

Drs. Igor and Inna Uspensky, immigrant scientists from the former Soviet Union, with the "Courage in Science" award bowl they received from the National Pest Control Association of the United States. [WZPS photo]

In the year since its informal founding, the project has proved so successful that the International Christian Embassy in Jerusalem has recently taken over some of the co-ordination.

Looking ahead, Igor and Inna still express the optimism and determination that carried them through even the blackest of their refusenik days. "It may only be a dream, but I'd like my own small laboratory here. Then I would be completely happy," says Igor.

As for Inna, she looks forward to the day she will see her granddaughter under the chupah (wedding canopy). "We have been to so many wonderful weddings here and I dream of the day when my family and I can celebrate Israeli-style." — WZPS

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Jewish children flee war-torn Moldova

War in the Balkan States is causing some Jewish youngsters to precede their parents in building new lives in the safety of Israel. The youngsters are all family emissaries — immigrant children urging their parents to quickly follow their lead.

Dianne Koutina, 18, and Sasha Kaushansky, 17, are among the thousands of residents from the war-torn region from Moldova to the Muslim republics in Central Asia to be recently rescued by the Jewish Agency. Forty youngsters, from various parts of the former Soviet Union, were sent to Israel on their own and are studying and living on Kibbutz Deganya.

Packing the children off was not an easy decision for their parents. Dianne, from Moldova, remembers that when her mother agonized over the decision, a shadow passed over her usually smiling face. Preferring to look ahead to a brighter time, she says, "my father is making plans to bring the entire family to Israel."

World Jewry is helping the rescue of Jews in life-threatening situations through their contributions to the Keren Hayesod-United Israel Appeal Campaigns. These campaigns have also been instrumental in Israel's absorption of hundreds of thousands of Jews from the former Soviet Union.

The Jews of Moldova are caught in the crossfire. The majority of Moldovans are ethnic Romanians who have always opposed the Russian minority that was settled in the region by Stalin. Because the 60,000 Jews in the region are Russian minority.

Given the stressful history and current violence, Dianne holds out no hope that a Jewish life can be maintained in Moldova. "There is no future for Jews there and we are helplessly caught up in a war that is not ours," she said.

Dianne Koutina and Sasha Kaushansky

With the help of the Jewish Agency, Sasha also made a perilous escape from his home in the town of Benda, wich straddles the region between the Dneistra River and Ukraine. Sasha believes that there is no solution to the conflict. "The Moldovans wants to be annexed to Romania, and the Russian minority wants independence," he said. "But it's not a Jewish issue. Our future is here in Israel."

Although there is no disagreement about where the future is, some like Dianne, look back with deep sadness. "Life in Israel is wonderful, but I can't help thinking of the town I left. I had a happy childhood. I went to a Jewish high school and celebrated all the festivals. My parents even speak Yiddish."

But she says the war has sewn hatred and decimated the Jewish community. "Almost all Jews have left for Israel or are planning on leaving."

Dianne and Sasha have already become familiar with the pioneering spirit that forms the backbone of Israeli kibbutzim. Deganyia, Israel's first kibbutz, was founded by Russian immigrants in 1909. "We respect these people as true pioneers," says Sasha. "In out own way we feel that we're also pioneers, blazing the way for our families."

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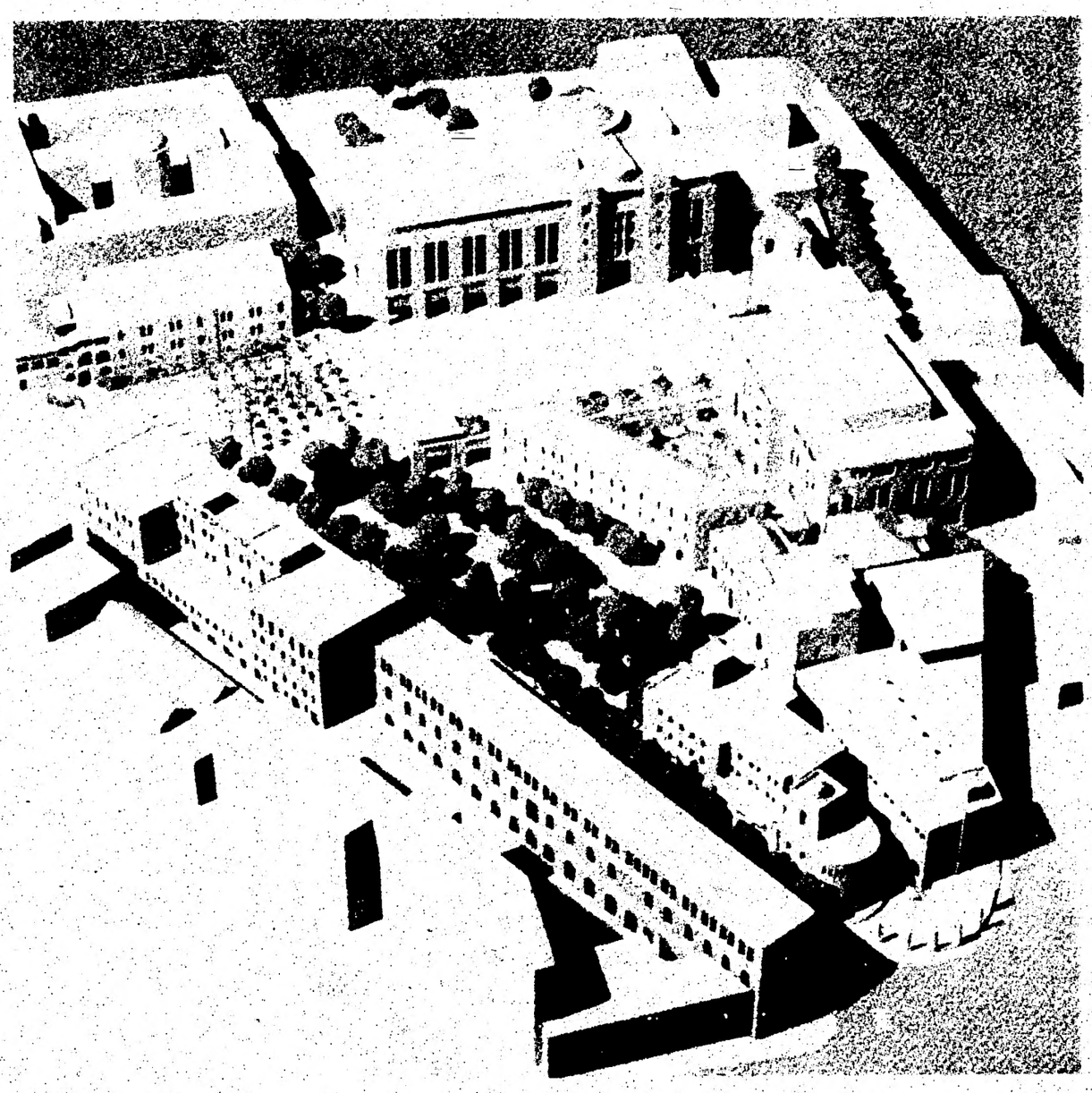

Jerusalem's New City Hall complex.

Development projects help to transform city

By SIMON GRIVER

Two major construction projects are transforming the very heart of Jerusalem. The new City Hall complex, with it central plaza, opened recently, while the first stage of the adjacent Mamilla Project, the country's largest-ever single real estate development, is currently nearing completion.

"Residents will now be able to conduct all their municipal business at one location. The spacious plaza will serve as a focal point for ceremonies, demonstrations, fairs and concerts, and there will be many cafes and restaurants at street level," said Shlomit Radai of the Jerusalem Development Authority.

There were two key architectural components to the project: The former municipality and nine surrounding buildings, constructed about 70 years ago, were renovated and restored; three large new buildings have been added. There are 800 parking spaces beneath the complex. The entire project has cost an estimated $100 million.

The largest of the new buildings houses the mayor's office on the top floor, commanding a superb view of Jerusalem's hills and suburbs. When the complex officially opened on Jerusalem Day in May, Mayor Teddy Kollek moved there from the office that he had occupied since he was elected for the first time in 1965.

Several hundred metres southeast of the old mayor's office, work is well under way on the Mamilla Project. Located below the Jaffa Gate, Mamilla was the first Jewish commercial district outside the Old City walls. Following the city's reunification in 1967, a development plan for the area was drawn up and virtually all of Mamilla's buildings were earmarked for destruction.

But unlike the City Hall project which proceeded smoothly, Mamilla has been plagued by 20 years of delays and disagreements. The original grandiose plans for 250,000 square metres of real estate were scaled down following the protests of preservationists.

The more modest 128,000 square metre plan is currently being implemented by Ladbroke, a British-based lesiure conglomerate whose subsidiaries include Hilton International. The first stage of nearly 100 luxury apartments, called David's Village, is almost complete. Other stages will include a 400-room Hilton Hotel and an elegant upmarket shopping mall.

The implementation of the project is a triumph for Jerusalem-born, Canadian-based architect Moshe Safdie. He confessed that he had been motivated by an idealistic dream. When he was growing up in Jerusalem between 1948 and 1967, Mamilla was divided by a wall running down its centre. He now envisages Mamilla as an area in which Jews and Arabs will mingle freely.

"I hope," Safdie said, "that the completion of Mamilla will coincide with a political settlement and peace agreement."

[Jerusalem Dateline]

Model of Mamilla project, Israel's largest-ever real estate development.

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Inna Sharf from Leningrad and Meyer Nahaon of Morocco met and married in Canada, and are making a new life together here.

Jewish engineers a team in every sense of word

By MAURICE LUCOW

It was probably bashert that Inna Sharf, formerly of Leningrad, and Meyer Nahaon, formerly of Morocco, should meet and marry in Canada.

But a more unusual twist to their story is that Inna and Meyer, who both have their doctorates in Engineering, should secure teaching posts in the same Engineering faculty at the University of Victoria (UVic) — a situation that Meyer says is unusual in Canada for husband and wife.

In Inna's opinion, the push for equity for women on university faculties is just getting under way "so we'll start to see combinations of husbands and wives teaching at the same university becoming more common."

In a way, says Inna, "we're in the vanguard of a new movement."

The attractive young Jewish couple — she's in her late 20s and he's a few years older — met at the University of Toronto, where Meyer was working on his Masters and Inna was on a fast track towards her PhD.

"Inna didn't like me much at first," said Meyer during an interview with the couple. "All I got at first was dirty looks and she didn't even want to talk to me. I worked hard at it, but had no success in dating her."

He decided that "because I had no luck with Inna, I'd go back to my home in Montreal and take my PhD at McGill. That's when she got interested!" He got that first date in Montreal.

Meyer moved to Montreal in November and began commuting to Toronto to keep in touch with Inna. "But neither of us could get much work done because we were both going back and forth — and the phone bills were tremendous."

So Inna had her advisor make a deal with Meyer's PhD advisor at McGill that she could continue her studies in analytical engineering in Montreal, and for three years she went to Toronto about once a month to check up on her progress. "It was an unusual arrangement," said Inna, "but because so much of my work was in the analytical field, as long as I had the use of a computer I could handle it." She finally got her doctorate — but from the University of Toronto.

Not long after, Meyer got his doctorate from McGill.

Meanwhile, they were married in Montreal and by sheer good luck, or maybe it was fate again, they applied for two openings at UVic, which was expanding its mechanical engineering department. They were accepted and have been on faculty for the past couple of years.

Inna's family applied for emigration in 1979, well before Gorbachev opened the doors wide to allow emigration from the former Soviet Union. At the time, an application to leave was made via an Israeli representative and in theory, the family was to move to Israel. However, they went first to Vienna where Jewish Immigrant Aid Services (JIAS) took over, transferred them to Rome and from there, eventually to Toronto. There was no problem with the Soviet government, Inna explained, because her father managed a food store and her mother worked in a publishing house and there were neither political nor military reasons to prevent their departure.

They settled first in London, Ont., but moved soon to Toronto, with JIAS helping them get established.

Inna attended high school in Toronto and was planning on taking up dentistry, because her father thought this was a profession that could give her material success. But she heard about an engineering course at U of T and even though few women were in engineering, she thought nothing of it because the profession was common among women in the Soviet Union.

She enrolled in the mechanical engineering division, specializing in robotics and the design of mechanical systems. On getting her B.Sc. in 1986, she enrolled for her Masters but was encouraged to take the PhD program and switched to that, instead. She got her doctorate four and a half years later.

Meyer was eight when the family migrated from Morocco to Montreal. Montreal's Protestant school board was recruiting teachers of French and as Meyer's mother filled the bill, the emigration procedure was quite simple, except that the family could take very little with them in the way of material possessions. Here again, JIAS was of great help, Meyer recalls.

The family moved to Cote St. Luc, because his mother was anxious for her family to live in a Jewish neighborhood. Meyer said it was nice growing up there, even though it was a sea of English-speaking Jews, and he spoke only French. But he learned English quickly.

Meyer thinks his family was amongst the first to come to Montreal from Morocco. He estimates there are well over 25,000 Moroccan Jews there now.

Meyer attended the Protestant school system, which was about 95 percent Jewish, and graduated as the "leading boy," which made it possible for him to study at any university. He chose Queen's, in Kingston, Ont., and got his Bachelor's degree there. He worked in Toronto for a while and then continued his education at the Univeristy of Toronto, where he got his Masters in Mechanical Engineering. Then he went back to Montreal for his doctorate at McGill.

Meyer and Inna bought their own home in Victoria and although life is much quieter here than in the big cities they've been used to, they know the chances of getting jobs in the same university elsewhere are slim, and they are content with life in the British Columbia capital.

Because she was brought up in the Soviet Union, Inna has little background in Judaism, although her grandparents were Orthodox. But she inherited from her parents the Jewish traits of studying and working hard to achieve. This she seems to have learned well.

Having two engineers in the same family is no problem, says Meyer. As an analytical engineer, Inna is great at figuring out problems while he is the more practical type. "In a way," he said, "we help each other . . . we complement each other." But if the fridge or some mechanical appliance in the house breaks down, Meyer does the repairs. "That's my jurisdiction," he says.

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לשנה טובה תכתבו

Israeli museums provide a cultural drawing card

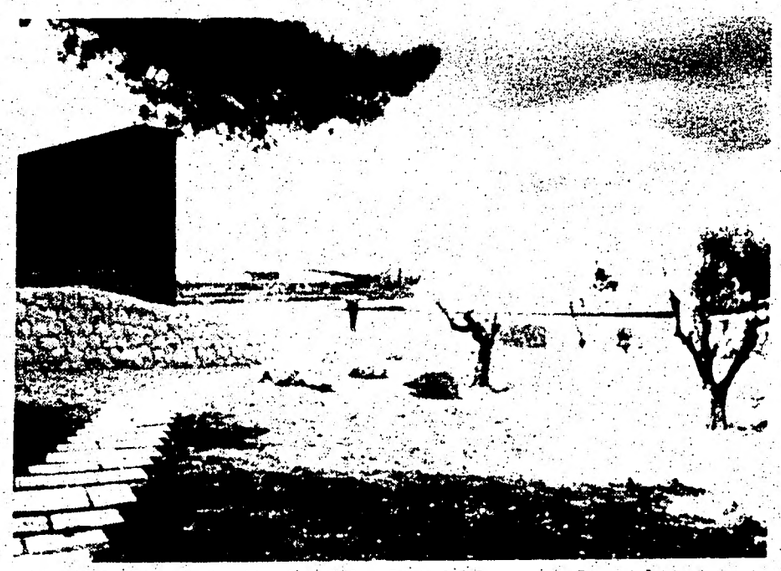
By LILI EYLON

Jerusalem's "Museum Mile" currently boasts four major cultural attractions: the Israeli Musuem, the Shrine of the Book, the Bible Lands Museum, and the recently opened Bloomfield Science Museum. Still to come are a natural history museum and a music museum. Together the six will form the capital's most popular cultural drawing card. Also planned are joint admission tickets and a shuttle service among the museums to facilitate visits.

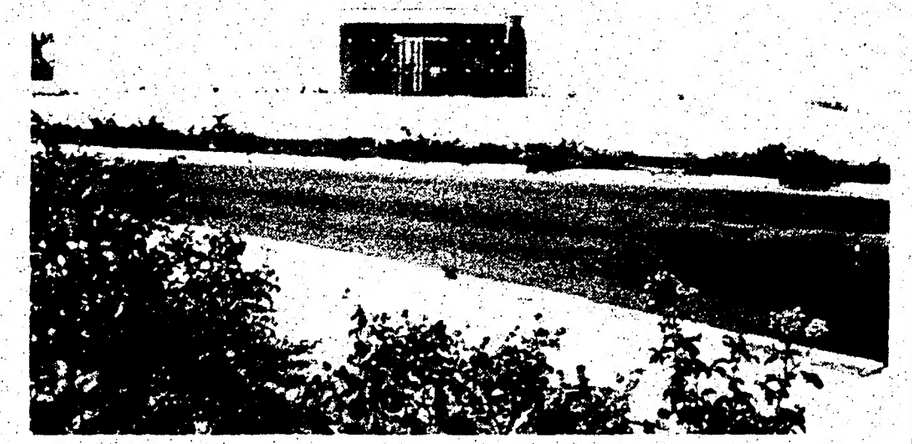
The Israel Museum, the country's national museum, houses more than 200,000 objects, including classical, impressionist, modern and contemporary art; prints and drawings; Judaica; pre-Colombian art; art from Oceania and Africa; Far Eastern and Islamic art; photography; archeological and Jewish ethnographic material. The museum consists of series of interconnected, modular pavilions merging with the natural contours of the hilly landscape.

It also contains the unique dome-shaped Shrine of the Book containing some 800 Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek scrolls and manuscripts found in the caves of Qumran along the western shore of the Dead Sea. The pointed, round roof of the Shrine of the Book represents the cover of one of the clay vessels in which the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered.

The Museum's Billy Rose Sculpture Garden, with its late 19th century sculptures, is built of Jerusalem stone and gravel. The garden consists of a series of semicircular terraces extending along the museum's hillside site into the surrounding landscape.



Shrine of the Book at the Israel Museum, Jerusalem.



Bible Lands Museum opened in Jerusalem in May, 1992.

The museum boasts some one million visitors annually, about half of whom are tourists from abroad. For the tourists the museum's permanent collection serves as an introduction to the country's archeology, Jewish ceremonial art and Israeli art. For Israeli visitors, on the other hand, who are generally familiar with the museum's permanent collection, it is the temporary exhibitions featuring contemporary art, new developments in Israeli art, aspects of design and environment and recent findings from archeological excavations which may prove of most interest. The museum's archeological collection is one of its most prominent features.

The Youth Wing boasts one of the largest and most active educational departments in the world with galleries, classrooms, studios, workshops, a library, an auditorium and playgrounds. Since its inauguration in 1965, the museum has quadrupled in size and has presented more than 1,000 special exhibitions.

The nearby Bible Lands Museum — a veritable treasure trove of historical finds from ancient Biblical lands — contains symbols from a dozen civilizations, bringing to life the history of Judaism and early Christianity. Some of these objects, many of them one of a kind, date as far back as 6000 BCE.

The museum's 20 galleries provide a primary resource for scholars, students of the Bible, archeologists, historians, educators and art lovers. Sumerian seals, Phoenician ivory inlays, terracotta figurines from Syria, East Mediterranean mosaics, painted coffins from Egypt, wine vessels from Persia, and varied objects from ancient Iran, West Anatolia and the Byzantine Empire all tell stories of a world which was the cradle of civilization.

"Each gallery presents a cross-section of time through the strata of the ancient Near East," says chief curator Dr. Joan Goodnick Westenholz. "In this way, the museum visitor is able to view developments simultaneously in Mesopotamia and Egypt. By this approach, one can obtain a clearer focus on the interaction of the various states and cultures of the whole region."

Dr. Elie Borowski, of Toronto and Jerusalem, Near Eastern scholar, collector of antiquities and co-founder with his wife Batya of the Bible Lands Museum, sums it up. "The future of mankind has its roots in the past."

Prof. Peter Hillman, a Hebrew University physicist and neurobiologist, is the director of the Bloomfield Science Museum. Most of the 60 exhibits on view were built by the museum's staff of 25 scientists and technicians, and each has a written explanation in Hebrew, English and Arabic.

All the exhibits are hands-on, all are meant to be touched and explored. "Looking is not enough," Hillman insists. And since wear-and-tear can be expected from the non-stop flow of youngsters pushing buttons and pulling levers, the museum has a basement workshop in which exhibits can be repaired and remodeled.

There is also a video room, a garden of science which features a sound exhibit called "whispering discs," and a "discovery centre" meant exclusively for younger children.

"Our idea is to show children and adults that science is not something mysterious but a natural part of world culture," Hillman says. "And we also show that science is a lot of fun." **[Jerusalem Dateline]**

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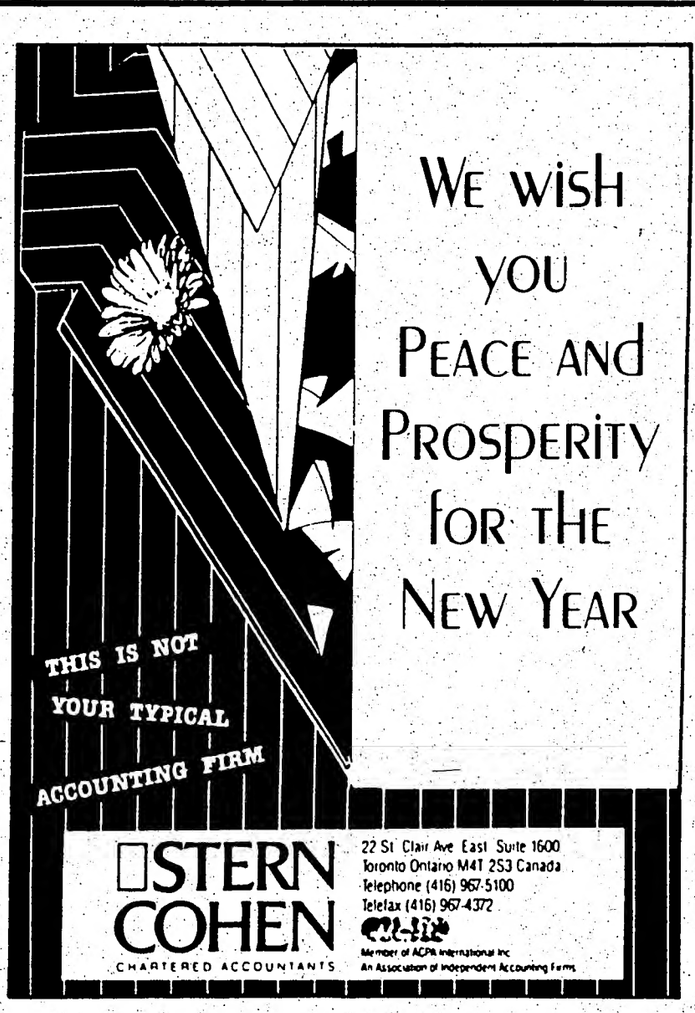

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Natalie Shevtson plays the flute at her home in Ra'anana while her parents, Victor and Tania and her sister Mirra listen carefully. [Edgar Asher photo: IPPA]

Soviet aliyah changes Israel's social structure

By EDGAR ASHER

The music of a flute and piano sonata is not the only harmonious sound that comes from the Shevtsov apartment. The harmony is also expressed in the family's whole attitude to Israel.

The huge aliyah from the former Soviet Union has changed the social structure and thinking of the Israeli people. The Russian language and locally produced Russian language newspapers suddenly became a way of life. The iron curtain had lifted and thousands of Russian Jews came to settle in Israel.

No economy could cope with the thousands of job seekers. It was almost certainly the problem of getting suitable jobs that became a major cause of discontent and frustration.

Ra'anana, just 10 miles or so northeast of Tel Aviv, has an outstanding record of involvement with immigrant absorption. This co-operation has been mainly through the challenge of the 'Operation Exodus' program.

But the story of the Shevtsov family shows that successful absorption is also dependent on an attitude of mind and a positive view of the future.

"I cannot say exactly what date my wife and I decided to come to Israel, but it was sometime in the fall of 1989," explains Victor Shevtsov. Victor, 41, together with his 40-year-old wife Tania were to wait until April the following year before joining an El Al flight from Budapest and coming, with their two daughters, to settle in Ra'anana.

"I was born in Rostov on Don and Tania was born in Moscow. We met in the Rachmaninov Conservatory of Music in Rostov where we were both studying the piano. We moved later on to Moscow and continued our studies." The Shevtsovs were not allowed to take their grand piano from Moscow and had to acquire another piano when they arrived in Ra'anana.

"There was no question that things were very difficult at first," says Tania, "but we have no regrets for making the decision to come to Israel."

"We were in no doubt that for our two daughters, Natalie and Mirra, Israel was the only place to be," Victor interjected. Following her parents' footsteps, 15-year-old Natalie is already an accomplished flautist. At the moment she is a student at Ra'anana's Rimon School, but next semester she will be going to the MetroWest High School, which is a project of the MetroWest Federation of New Jersey. Natalie's ambition is to become a professional flautist and join one of Israel's fine symphony orchestras.

Mirra, 18, is also a talented pianist, but her aspirations are in another direction. The walls of the Shevtsov's apartment are full testimony to Mirra's talent as an artist. Her beautiful oil paintings are colorful and imaginative. Mirra is now studying art at Ramat Hasharon's Alon Art School.

When the Shevtsovs arrived in Israel they were introduced to life in Israel by direct absorption. Direct absorption has been practiced in Ra'anana for several years now with much success. In essence new immigrants, instead of spending their first six months or so in a residential ulpan, go straight to an apartment just as the locals would do.

The absorption centre has become a kind of day centre that deals with the problems of the new immigrants as well as the all important function of teaching Hebrew at all different levels. Direct absorption has enabled new immigrants to integrate much more quickly into their new society as well as allowing veteran Israelis to be of assistance on a much more personal level.

"After we finished our ulpan, which is located in the centre of the town, Tania and I were both fortunate to get half-time appointments teaching piano at the Rubin Music Academy in Tel Aviv University," explained Victor. "This certainly wasn't enough income to pay the rent on our apartment, once the initial immigrant grant came to an end, so Tania and I started teaching piano at home.

At first we only had two pupils each, but soon we got a local reputation and many more young people came to learn with us."

Musical study

Victor still cannot come to terms with the attitude of many of his students, as he feels that sometimes there is a too superficial approach to serious musical study. "All too often our pupils tell us how we should teach them or tell us, for example, 'that today I don't fancy learning the left hand.' I think the problem revolves around discipline. There is no question of the vitality and enthusiasm of young people here in Israel, but there is a lack of self control — essential to achieve a high level of musical accomplishment."

Very often the Shevtsovs are requested to join with other new immigrant musicians to entertain groups of visitors to Ra'anana. Two years ago Victor and Mirra were chosen to join a Jewish Agency delegation of recent immigrants going to Switzerland to promote awareness of the problems faced by Israel in absorbing so many new olim.

For the Shevtsov family the past three years have been notable only by their smooth integration into Israeli life. They admit themselves that they have been fortunate to find such satisfying work so soon after their aliyah. Victor and Tania have always had an eye on the future, particularly when it came to thinking about Natalie and Mirra. To visit the family in their quiet, airy, third floor apartment, just a short walk from the busy main shopping street in Ra'anana, it is clear how well the whole family has integrated and made their aliyah work so well.

לשנה טובה תכתבו

New Supreme Court building reflects Israel's history, culture

By LILI EYLON

"And I will restore your judges as at first, and your counsellors as at the beginning. Afterwards Jerusalem shall be called the City of Righteousness and a faithful city."

Isaiah 1:26

— "This building represents our dream for the values of this society," said Supreme Court president Justice Meir Shamgar at the recent opening of the new Supreme Court edifice on Jerusalem's Government Hill.

Until the new premises began functioning late last fall, Israel's 12 Supreme Court judges presided in rented quarters in a 100-year-old building in midtown Jerusalem. For years there had been an obvious need for larger, more appropriate courtrooms. Then, in December 1984, Dorothy de Rothschild, the now-deceased wife of the late James de Rothschild, wrote a letter to then-Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

". . . I have been asked by the Council of our Foundation, Yad Hanadiv, to tell you that we would like to offer the State of Israel a new Supreme Court building and thus fully realize my husband's vision of some 27 years ago. I have just heard that a site near the Knesset could now be made available for this purpose. We are indeed deeply appreciative of this decision as we attach great importance to the proximity of the two buildings — together they would emphasize Israel's fundamental attachment both to Justice and Democracy."

Rothschild's offer accepted

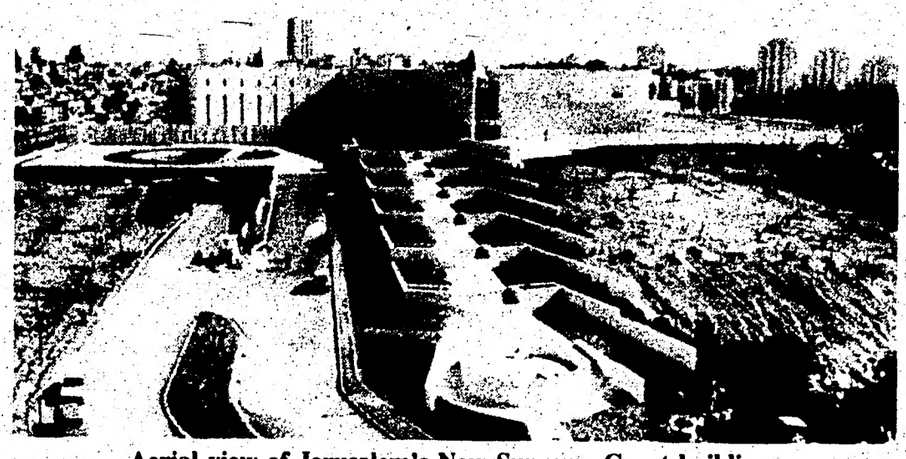
Rothschild's offer was accepted, and the project was on its way. In 1986 a competition to find a suitable architectural design was launched. Out of 174 Israeli architects who submitted plans, the sister-brother architect team of Ada Karmi-Melamede and Ram Karmi was chosen. They were picked by jurors including: British philosopher Sir Isaiah Berlin; British architectural historian Colin Amery; Lord Jacob Rothschild; Israel's Chief Justice Meir Shamgar; and five architects.

The chosen architects had first worked together in the office of their late father, Dov Karmi, one of the pioneers of architecture in Israel and the first recipient, in 1957, of the prestigious Israel Prize for Architecture. Among the public buildings to his credit are the Administration Building on the Hebrew University Campus at Givat Ram in Jerusalem; the ORT school, the El Al building, and the Philharmonic Orchestra Auditorium in Tel Aviv.

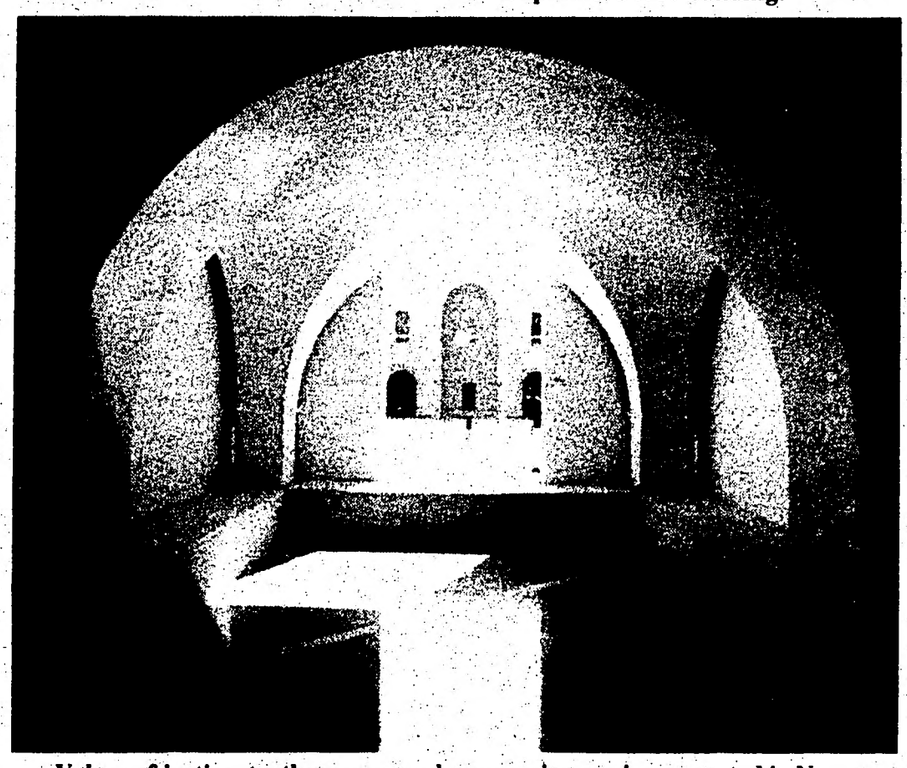
Ram Karmi has held the posts of professor of Architecture and Town Planning at the Technion and chief architect of the ministry of housing, while his sister Ada Karmi-Melamede has taught architecture at Columbia, Yale and the University of Pennsylvania. Israel's Ein Harod Art Museum and the Open University in Tel Aviv are among the projects she has worked on in Israel.

According to the architects, three broad themes determined their design of the Supreme Court Building. The first is location and site: Its location in Jerusalem commands the urban fabric of the city. Its site mediates between the Judean Desert to the east and the Mediterranean Sea to the west. Secondly, the building aspires to reflect the unique historical and cultural significance of Israel and endeavors to represent the basic values of justice, truth, mercy and compassion. Finally, its character has evolved from Biblical images in the tradition of Jewish law.

[Jerusalem Dateline]



Aerial view of Jerusalem's New Supreme Court building.



Values of justice, truth, mercy, and compassion are incorporated in New Supreme Court building.

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לשנה טובה תכתבו

Rothschilds' connection with Israel rooted in history

By CAROL NOVIS

Without the Rothschilds, the country's capital might hardly be the same. The recent opening of the spectacular new Supreme Court building in Jerusalem marked the culmination of over a century of unparalleled philanthropic effort by the renowned Jewish dynasty. "Never has a family donated so much of its wealth to the making of history," commented Foreign Minister Shimon Peres recently.

The Rothschilds are a colorful as well as a philanthropic family, whose members have consorted with kings and heads of governments all over Europe, and whose scions have included scientists, authors, politicians and even a bomb disposal expert.

The Rothschilds rose to prominence in the eighteenth century when Moses Anchel Rothschild and his five sons established a banking empire which soon became one of the most powerful in the world.

But the family's connection with the Holy Land only began when Baron Edmond de Rothschild developed a deep interest in Zionism in the 1880's after a series of pogroms in Russia. Visiting Palestine several times, he funded settlements, introduced agricultural innovations, purchased land for Jewish pioneering, and even helped finance Eliezer Ben Yehuda's Hebrew dictionary.

A self-effacing man, he asked only that none of his efforts be publicly acknowledged. On one of his trips to Israel, so as to arrive in relative anonymity, he insisted on leaving his private yacht at Alexandria, and travelling on to Jaffa by ordinary passenger boat. He even eschewed the public use of his name, known instead as "Hasnadiv Hayadua" (the well-known benefactor).

Rothschild impressed — and at times annoyed — the Jews on the settlements he supported in Israel, by his keen interest in small details. Through his clerks, he insisted on being told about everything, down to the smallest happening, that took place. People joked, half seriously, that Rothschild knew when every goat had a kid and when every new grape vine was planted in each of the settlements he helped support.

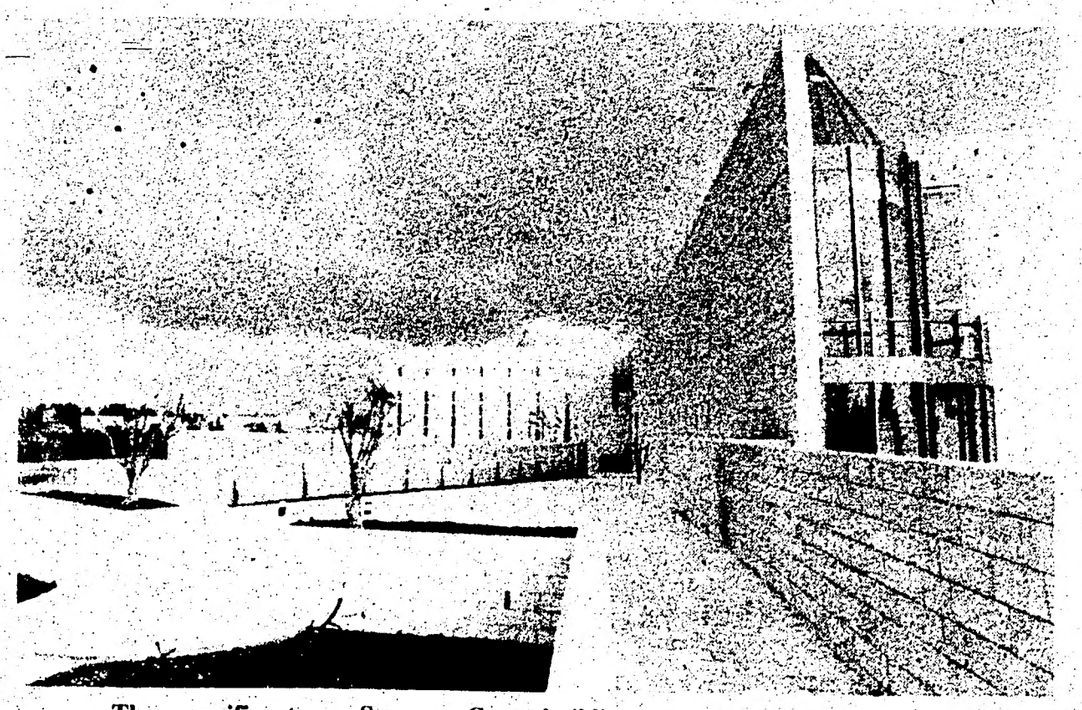
Though exact figures are unknown, it is estimated that his total philanthropic expenditure in Palestine between 1884 and 1934 was about $6 million, an enormous sum at the time. On his death in 1934, almost 125,000 acres of land and more than 40 settlements testified to his contribution and support.

In 1957, the Baron's son James created "Yad Hanadiv" (the Benefactor's Memorial) to fund educational and cultural projects in Israel. He died later that year, but not before bequeathing funds to build Israel a parliament (Knesset).

James' widow Dorothy de Rothschild continued the family tradition until her death in 1988. A friend of Hadassah founder Henrietta Szold, she helped found Jerusalem's Rothschild-Hadassah hospital, now known as Hadassah Hospital — Ein Kerem, which grew into the country's first medical school, the Hebrew University-Hadassah School of Medicine. She was also instrumental in helping to build Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek hospital.

Other Rothschild projects in the capital have included the renovation of the Yemin Moshe neighborhood, the development of the Valley of the Cross, and the Jerusalem Music Center, which gives music students in Israel the chance to work with visiting international masters.

Following Jerusalem's reunification in 1967, the family also helped rebuild four ancient Sephardi synagogues in the Old City.



The magnificent new Supreme Court building in Jerusalem. [WZPS photo]

Not all contributions, though, have been of tangible stone and mortar. The foundation has supported educational and cultural projects such as Educational Television, originally financed as a pilot project, and the Open University, established to offer continuing education to all Israeli adults. The same aims have been pursued in Jerusalem by the Rothschilds in the Center for Advanced Studies at the Hebrew University and in numerous scholarships and prizes.

Dorothy Rothschild's efforts on behalf of the Rothschild family did not go unrecognized in Israel. Among other accolades, she received Hadassah's Henrietta Szold award for her family's services to humanity, an honorary doctorate from the Hebrew University, and the Freedom of Jerusalem medal.

The current Lord Rothschild — Nathaniel Charles Jacob Rothschild was recently in Israel to be named an Honorary Fellow of Jerusalem and to attend the inauguration of the new Supreme Court building, described as "the most beautiful public building in the country."

"I consider myself a Zionist," he said. "I have been and always will be. I passionately believe in the State of Israel, as we have as a family."

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Clockwise from right: diamond and emerald necklace, diamond brooch, "Cosmos" diamond ring created on the occasion of the first flight to the moon, and matching bracelet. [WZPS photo]

Priceless Russian jewels on display in Ramat Gan

By DINA SHILOH

A spectacular exhibition of priceless Russian jewels, 80 percent of while have not even been seen by the public of the former Soviet Union, has been on display at the Harry Oppenheimer Diamond Museum in Ramamt Gan.

Months of negotiations with the Rosscomdragmet, the committee of the Russian Federation of Precious Metals and Precious Stones, were necessary to obtain the "Treasures of Russia" collection, with final authorization coming from Boris Yeltsin himself. But the effort seems to have paid off.

Underneath all the media hype surrounding the exhibition, the show is truly extraordinary and people are flocking to see it.

At the door of the museum, which is housed in the country's huge diamond exchange, helpful guides are assigned to guide visitors through the display. The exhibit has been divided into four sections, the first of which shows the raw materials which the fabulous wealth of Russia provides. A 12-kilo gold bar drew some incredulous gasps from the visitors, and a 2,230 carat alexandrite stone, the second largest in the world, also created a stir.

The second section contains 18th and 19th century jewels once belonging to the Russian nobility. Some date from 1719 when Peter I began assembling various royal articles in the Diamond Room of the Winter Palace in St. Petersburg, where they were carefully preserved and protected.

After the revolution in 1917, the treasures were transferred to the Kremlin for storage, and "Gokhran" (the State Depository of Russia) was established to look after them. Only a privileged few will have seen the infant Prince Alexander Pavlovitch's fist-sized gold baby rattle encrusted with diamonds, turquoise, emeralds and rubies, and sporting an ivory handle.

From the Diamond Room of the Czar's Palace comes the beautiful diadem and earrings of the Empress Elizabeth. So too does a thumb-sized pin with blue and pink diamonds, originally the possession of the Empress Maria Fedorovna. "Marvellous work," breathed one lady over a 19th century plumed royal hair pin combining gold, silver, diamonds, emeralds, pearls, and bird feathers. A coronation chain, set with hundreds of diamonds, is another remarkable piece.

The third section contains work by the House of Faberge, one of a number of jewelers who came from Europe to work at the czarist court. Y. Rapoport, a Jewish craftsman, was one of the few of their artisans allowed to sign his name next to the House of Faberge mark. According to the museum's curator, Noah Tal, "Rapoport was considered a very important jeweller and maker of objects d'art in the House of Faberge." The reaction to his fabulous jasper, silver and gold vase, show the fascination his work still holds today.

Included in the Faberge collection are examples of his "rough gold" technique, which has an almost fluid texture and looks like unworked gold. The final section displays work by contemporary Russian artists, ordered by the state treasury to augment art collections of great economic value. One such piece is the White Rose of Moscow (1970), a pin containing 1,466 diamonds whose leaves are attached with tiny clips which allow them to be in constant movement.

So why did the Russians choose to show these fabulous pieces for the first time ever in Israel? Israel's leading role as a diamond cutting and processing centre was clearly a factor. But accoring to Prime Minister Rabin at the exhibition's opening, it was to herald "a new era of fruitful co-operation between the two countries."

And this new friendship is certainly as priceless as some of the jewels at this exciting exhibition. — WZPS

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לשנה טובה תכתבו

Jerusalem authorities seek high-tech future for city

By SIMON GRIVER

Jerusalem, one of Israel's poorer cities, is striving to establish a prosperous high-tech future. Dozens of state-of-the-art concerns have set up enterprises in recent years, manufacturing a broad spectrum of science based products for export, including microprocessors, pharmaceuticals, biomedical equipment, data processing centres and telecommunications systems.

"But there is still a long way to go," says Itcha Gur, spokesman for the Jerusalem Development Authority. "And much must be invested in the city's infrastructure, especially new highways, if Jerusalem is to achieve its maximum potential.

Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek, as always, is determined to achieve his goal. "It is necessary to turn the city into one with sound and balanced economics," he insists. "This is the greatest challenge facing Jerusalem today."

The challenge is urgent. Interior Ministry statistics compiled several years ago ranked Jerusalem 67th out of 99 Israeli cities in terms of average income. 24 percent of Tel Aviv's and 27 percent of Haifa's workforce are employed in the manufacturing sector, compared to only 12 percent of Jerusalemites. The capital's economic base is dominated by the public sector which employs 51 percent of the workforce.

With these figures in mind, Israel Kimhi, research co-ordinator at the Jerusalem Institute for Israel studies, asserts, "There is a need to change the economic base of the city in order to strengthen and raise income levels."

However, there is a consensus against accepting heavy and low-tech industries which could cause pollution and harm tourism. "Labor intensive industries are not for Jerusalem," explains Deputy Mayor Avraham Kehila. "We have numerous scientists and highly qualified academics. Our future industry should be based on high-tech."

Deputy Mayor Amos Mar Haim agrees, citing two more reasons in Jerusalem's favor. "The city has development 'zone A' status meaning that new companies enjoy generous tax breaks, grants and loans, and Jerusalem has a high quality of life."

Jerusalem's quality of life has attracted tens of thousands of newcomers to the city in recent decades. According to Mayor Kollek, Jerusalem has absorbed more new immigrants since 1990 than any other city in Israel. And many of them, he says, are highly qualified academicians from the Soviet Union.

At the same time there has been a domestic "Brain drain." Frustrated by the city's limited employment opportunities, thousands of Jerusalemites have been lured away to Tel Aviv and Haifa, or even overseas, by lucrative offers.

Others make a compromise and commute. "Thousands of workers drive down to Lod, Tel Aviv and Rehovot every day, because they are not willing to give up living in Jerusalem," observes Mar Haim. It is especially surprising that Jerusalem failed to establish science based industries for so long because internationally renowned institutes of higher learning have flourished in the city since before the establishment of the state.

An electronics engineer at Digital Equipment Corporation in Jerusalem, checking microchips. [WZPS photo]

Four of the Hebrew University's seven faculties are science-oriented, including the Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center, The Jerusalem College of Technology and the ORT College of Practical Engineers and Technicians are also an influential presence. Each institution has its own company marketing innovative patented products.

Moreover, Jerusalem teenagers have the highest average level of schooling of any city in Israel, and the capital's high schools have almost twice the national average of pupils studying electronics, data processing and computer science.

But science based industries took a long time in coming. The Har Hotzvim Science Based Industrial Park, established in the late 1970's near the western end of the city, started the turnaround.

Teva Pharmaceuticals, an Israeli-owned conglomerate with a broad range of exports of generic drugs and annual sales of over $350 million, pioneered the way by establishing a plant at Har Hotzvim which today manufactures nearly $40 million worth of medicines per year.

"Jerusalem attracted us for several reasons," recalls Eli Hurvitz, Teva's President and CEO. "We wanted to strengthen our contacts with Jerusalem's scientific institutions and universities. The human resources available met our high standards and we benefitted from preferential tax and investment terms."

Overseas companies like Intel, the U.S. based manufacturer of microprocessors for computers, soon followed suit. Israeli born Dr. Dov Frohman, who returned home from California to become general manager of Intel-Israel says, "We set up in Jerusalem to leverage the availability of high quality professional manpower. The Hebrew University and Jerusalem education system were key factors in the decision."

The influx of high-tech companies into Jerusalem has been accelerated by the city's status as the only 'zone A' region for high-tech start-ups in the centre of the country. This means that new industries are eligible for government grants of between 20 percent up to 38 percent on fixed asset investments. Companies can forego the grants and pay no company tax for 10 years as well as receive a loan of up to two-thirds of their investment. In addition, generous loans are available for small enterprises and grants for R & D.

The municipality has added to these incentives. A new enterprise pays no rates for the first year and enjoys significant reductions in the subsequent three years. The Jerusalem Development Authority was set up in 1989 to facilitate the establishment of new businesses by offering advice and aid.

Mar Haim emphasizes that these measures have been paying dividends. "In the last few years alone," he stresses, "twelve major companies have either built or expanded factories here. Digital Equipment Corporation, for instance, laid the cornerstone of a new building, and ECI-Telecom, a leading company whose shares are traded in New York, opened a subsidiary in Jerusalem."

But there have been setbacks. Luz industries, based at Har Hotzvim, went bankrupt. In their heyday in the mid 1980's, Luz brought in $100 million annually from sales of technology and equipment for producing electricity from solar energy. But the dropping price of oil then pushed them out of business.

Jerusalem's Scientific Incubator Company Limited (SCI), also based at Har Hotzvim, has inherited much of Luz's talent. Dr. Zvi Elgat, the general manager of SCI, was formerly a senior manager of Luz. SCI is jointly owned by the Hebrew University's Yissum Research Development Company and the Jerusalem Development Authority. Funding is also provided by the Jewish Agency, so that SCI can employ the talents of new immigrant scientists.

Elgat has headhunted some of his former company's most talented scientists. Daniel Leigh, who used to devise measurement equipment for generating solar energy, has now developed an innovative instrument for testing the presence of bacteria in a patient's blood. Leigh and his team will soon leave the incubator to form their own company, located, of course, in one of Jerusalem's Science Based Parks.

But they'll be hardpressed to establish their headquarters at Har Hotzvim. The 35-acre site is now full, employing 6,000 people producing $300 million worth of goods per year. But the 15-acre Manhat Technology Park is slated to open this year and there are also science based facilities in the city's industrial zones in Talpiot, Givat Shaul and Atarot.

It does seem that Jerusalem is at last becoming a city that can attract hard-headed business capital as effectively as it has raised donations in the past. As it approaches its 3,000th birthday, the city is finally getting its economic act together.

— WZPS

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Neve Ativ, Mount Hermon's ski area, has been quick to employ immigrants from colder climates. Ski instructor Andre Semenikhin, an immigrant from Moscow, teaches a class of beginning Israelis.

Mount draws immigrants to its thriving ski facilities

The winding ascent up Israel's Mount Hermon is as treacherous as it is thrilling. Even from a distance, the snow-covered mountain is a breathtaking vision and a stark contrast to Israel's Mediterranean climate and landscape.

Travelling the mountain road is a reminder that although the surroundings may look European, Mount Hermon is part of the Golan Heights, a controversial issue in the current peace talks. Even Neve Ativ, bustling with novice and veteran ski enthusiasts, is rooted in Israel's often painful history.

Neve Ativ is the ski area and moshav located on Mount Hermon. Rami Kalfon, one of the five founders, says, "When we got out of the army we wanted to memorialize our friends who had died. We decided to make something of this place."

That was 22 years ago and Mt. Hermon was nothing but rocky, barren land. Today, hundreds of skiers arrive every day to enjoy top-quality facilities. Kalfon says, "In a little more than 20 years, we have created something quite similar to what is in Europe."

They've also created a magnet for new immigrants skilled in winter sports. Currently, there are two new immigrant ski instructors from Russia and Yugoslavia. All Soviet Jewish immigrants and rescued Yugoslavian Jews have been supported in their absorption by American Jews through the UJA/Federation Annual and Operation Exodus campaigns.

Andre Semenikhin, 29, an economist from Moscow, tied his immigration to the opportunity to ski. With a burst of laughter, Semenikhin exclaims, "Without skiing I cannot live. If it hadn't been for Neve Ativ, I couldn't have come to Israel." He's been skiing since the age of 9, has taught skiing, and has travelled in search of the challenge of new ski slopes.

But his confidence about his own absorption did not match his confidence on the slopes. With no family or friends in Israel and uncertain about his ability to grasp the language, he doubted that he'd succeed. The obstacles began diminishing for Semenikhin when he joined the Kibbutz Movement's First Home in the Homeland program. The program is a strong buffer against alienation and has provided a smooth adjustment for many immigrants. And to Semenikhin's surprise, he learned Hebrew quickly. He was already working at Neve Ativ during his first winter in the country.

Now, past the stage of feeling like a new immigrant, he finds some amusement in dealing with novice Israeli skiers. He explains that he has begun to use the common Israeli expression, savlanut (patience), on his pupils. He says, "People always tell new immigrants to have patience. But up here... learning how to ski... they are the ones who need it."

Nenad Jerlick, 33, and also a ski instructor, had no time to worry about skiing or his language ability prior to his immigration. Caught in the crossfire of Yugoslavia's civil war, and with a wife already living in Israel, his decision to immigrate was made for him. He says, "I stayed there until the conditions became unbearable. I was forced to choose between being a Croat or a Serb. I couldn't, so I came to Israel."

Jerlick, a specialist in computers, also worked for years as a tennis and ski instructor near Belgrade. He says, "When I left Yugoslavia I took all my tennis equipment, but I didn't think I'd ever ski again." He was both surprised and elated when his wife told him about Neve Ativ. Jerlick says, "It's amazing to be here and to have found work. Employment is the most important thing for a new immigrant."

The constant activity at Neve Ativ keeps instructors busy from nine in the morning until four in the afternoon. The ever-expanding ski school attracts 450 pupils daily. Kalfon values the new immgrant's contribution to Neve Ativ and to the sport of skiing in Israel. He also feels strongly about helping newcomers integrate into Israeli society. He says, "I want to help them, and if they know how to ski, they can certainly help us. It doesn't matter where they are from in the world, we are now all here together."

[UJA Press Service]

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This Israeli woman trying her luck with a $1.25 Hish Gad instant lottery ticket won $2.50. [WZPS photo]

Lotteries draw Israelis from all walks of life

By NECHAMA GOLDMAN

Yisrael Bachar likes to gamble. Once a week he buys one Lotto, one Toto, and one instant lottery ticket in the hope that he will hit the jackpot one day.

"Why do I gamble?" asks Bachar on a wintry Friday. "It's in my blood," he jokes. "No, really it's because I need to cover my overdraft in the bank." Four years ago Bachar won a $5,000 second prize in the Lotto national lottery. What did he do with the money? "I gave it to my wife." His wife, standing beside him, answers wryly, "We covered our overdraft."

The lines at the many blue and yellow lottery booths across the country reflect the nation's diversity, and its passion for gambling. Young and old, men and women, soldiers and ultra-Orthodox all wait together hoping for a big win.

The youngest person in line that Friday was Avraham Gila, a 13-year-old Ethiopian immigrant from Acco who was buying his weekly instant lottery ticket. "I want to make money," he says and offers shyly, "once I won six shekels [$2.15]."

"Earning" easy money is the hope of many Israelis. The combined revenues of Mifal Hapayis, the national state lottery, and Toto, the national betting council, are expected to top $350 million this year.

"Mifal Hapayis is the most successful gambling institution in the world," says Zvi Gilula, professor of statistics at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and former statistical advisor to the Payis.

Mifal Hapayis was established in 1951, creating a legal outlet for gambling and a structure to bring in badly needed extra money. The Payis runs three games: Lotto; Payis Hazak in which participants buy a numbered ticket in a draw for a $175,000 weekly first prize; and Hish Gad, an instant lottery that offers cash and prizes like cars and TV sets.

Payis also offers a subscription program that has proven extremely successful. Once a month, money is withdrawn from the subscriber's bank account for his tickets and any winnings are deposited there. "The reaction was better than expected," says Gilula. "Ten percent of the adult population in Israel now subscribe!"

Since its establishment, Mifal Hapayis has built 28,000 classrooms, 200 community centres, hundreds of youth centres and elderly day care centres, vocational-training centres, drug-rehabilitation clinics and more. While 60 percent of the Payis money goes towards prizes, 30 percent — about $80 million in 1992 — is used for education and health facilities.

"After Payis was established . . . people jumped on the bandwagon," says Gilula. "While casinos were seen as bad, the lottery was considered good because it was a means to help people."

Toto also funds sport projects, and as much as 95 percent of Israel's professional sports income comes from Toto. Last year over $70 million was grossed, with 42 percent going toward prize money, 20 percent to promotion and salaries and the rest, 38 percent, to sports.

Beneficiaries include major sporting organizations like Betar, Hapoel, Elitzur and Maccabi, the Israel Olympic committee and national association for sport. Toto provides the only legal outlet for betting games, but is very strictly regulated by the government.

"Too regulated," complains Toto spokesman Yehuda Gabai. "The Payis introduces new games but we are only allowed one." To play Toto, you fill in columns marked 'win,' 'lose' or 'draw' for 15 different games. The first prize winner is one who fills in all 15 columns correctly.

"Local loyalty is well known," says Gilula. "The Israeli sports bettor is often fanatical, almost superstitious, about 'his' team and will bet in its favor, despite the odds, to show his support." Indeed, Moti Mizrachi and Roni Shemesh from Tel Hakabir, who were in line buying Toto tickets, were concerned that their separate affiliations not be confused. "I go with Hapoel Tel Aviv," emphasizes Mizrachi. "He sides with Maccabi [Tel Aviv]."

Mizrachi once won $350 from Toto, but he continues to buy tickets to show support for Hapoel and in hope of bigger winnings.

In addition to the obvious interest shown in Payis and Toto, Israelis seem keen for other forms of gambling. The police ministry spokesman says that authorities bust numerous gambling dens across the country every year.

Israelis are also notorious for visiting casinos abroad. "I've been to Vegas many times and the only children I've seen there are Israeli," says Gilula. On the TV talk show *Pop Politics*, a recent call-in guest was Ezra Balilya, a wealthy Israeli contractor who recently built a casino in Budapest. "I make about $1 million a month," he told viewers. "Some 10 percent of my money comes from Israelis."

The national craze for betting has produced some sad cases of compulsive gambling. The Hebrew daily Yediot Achronot recently described an evening in Tel Aviv's Hatikva neighborhood when the Toto pool was up to $3.5 million. Three partners filled out 20,000 columns of Toto cards, an investment of more than $8,000. "When the prize is 10 million shekels [$3.5 million], what does another thousand matter?" one partner asked. The previous week they had filled out 25,000 columns. Neither week did they walk away with the grand prize.

Banking on this craze for risk taking, supermarket chains try to attract customers and sell new products by using lotteries and raffles as bait. Co-op, for example, organizes a new lottery almost monthly as a promotional gimmick. Several newspapers have also recently held highly-publicized, vastly popular lotteries.

Bezek, the phone company, tried to capitalize on this interest by staging quizzes for prizes and lotteries on their

[Cont'd. on page 57]

לשנה טובה תכתבו

Israel's top beauty queen juggles hectic schedule

There's a photo shoot with international fashion photographer, Ben Lamm. Then a quick trip cross town to Tel Aviv University for a chemistry class. Before the next class, it's back to the studio for another photo session. This time it's for Ellen Betrix cosmetics and the model, Yana Khodyrker, the current Miss Israel, is creating her own chemistry with the camera.

Lamm says, "She's beautiful — great eyes, a beautiful body, graceful hands, brains — everything it takes to be a success." Zivit Yakir, the chief beauty consultant for Ellen Betrix, is marvelling at Khodyrker's ability to change moods with just a tilt of the head or movement of the lips. Yakir says, "She has a very clean and natural look. It's exactly the fresh look we were looking for."

The accolades have been coming Khodyrker's way since she won the Miss Israel contest last March. But she remains as levelheaded about her overnight success as she is about the upcoming Miss Universe Contest in Mexico City, where she will be representing her new country.

Khodyrker, who has been in Israel for two years with her parents and teenage brother, hardly had beauty contests or modeling on her mind when she arrived in Israel. She was focused on obtaining an education and when friends suggested she enter the Miss Israel Contest, she took it as a joke. But after thinking about it, she decided it might actually be fun.

It has been fun, but it's also led to a demanding life that has required juggling a professional modeling career with the academic demands of university study. Khodyrker agrees, "It's hectic right now but I'm determined to get my degree." Discussing her parents' priorities, she says, "When I won the contest they told me that they were proud of me but that my education was more important than modeling. They insisted that I find a balance."

Yana Khodyrker

The Khodyrkers are among the hundreds of thousands of Jews from the former Soviet Union to some to Israel to build new lives. American Jews have assisted in the immigration and absorption of all these newcomers through the UJA/Federation Annual and Operation Exodus campaigns.

Khodyrker's parents, like many of their compatriots, made the move to Israel with the future of their children in mind. They endured a couple of rocky years when they were learning the language, adjusting to the culture, and looking for employment.

Khodyrker says, "We're finally at home. It took awhile but my family has sorted things out. My parents are working and we just bought an apartment in Rishon Lezion." Khodyrker adds, "They really made aliyah to give my brother and me a new beginning. We haven't been disappointed."

Casinos planned for Israel

[Cont'd. from page 56]

information-for-pay service. However, these were stopped, as the law prohibits commercial lotteries run over the telephone.

Aside from these lotteries, there are no other legal gambling outlets. However, the roar of slot machines and the pounding of hoofbeats may soon be echoing across the country. Finance minister Avraham Shohat and tourism minister Uzi Baram have both stated publicly their determination to open casinos in Israel, specifially in Eilat. Politicians, contractors, tourists, professional gamblers all seem willing to jump on the bandwagon. Why this sudden furor? Or, in a tourist country, why has Israel been so delinquent in opening a casino?

Off-shore floating casinos actually existed in Eilat for a few months in 1989. Two were operated under Israeli management with croupiers and dealers imported from England. However, neither the municipality of Eilat nor the Israeli government were happy with the arrangements. The floating casinos did not bring in money to Israel, as they were exempt from municipal and other taxes.

The casinos were eventually busted by police who, working undercover as gamblers, accrued illicit information about the owners, their clients and the escort services and loan sharks operating alongside the gambling. That was the end of heavy gambling in Israel.

Since then, former finance ministers like Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Moda'i have regularly promised to investigate and implement casino gambling. Under Peres, Judge Benjamin Cohen led a committee that recommended government-controlled legalized gambling for anyone over 18. Horse racing was also discussed. The tourism ministry made yearly declarations about gambling. Their interest was obviously the potential money coming in from tourists hitting the casinos.

The pendulum swings back to its starting point with the recent statements of Shohat, Baram and the Knesset sports committee. Avi Yehezkel, a member of the committee, said that horse betting would attract more money to subsidize sports while providing jobs for thousands and encouraging the breeding of racing stock. Micha Goldman, deputy education minister and the overseer of sport in the country, said that he is very interested in opening a racetrack and establishing betting under Toto's umbrella.

"In the previous government, there was opposition to gambling. But with me in the position I am, the efforts to implement horse racing have been redoubled," Goldman says. He is now presenting the sports committee's finding to the education minister and Shohat. "With cable and computers so widespread, Israelis can sit at home and gamble, betting on horse racing in Germany or other parts of Europe," says Goldman. "Why should those countries benefit from Israeli money?"

Nevertheless, there have been many objections to bringing serious gambling into the country, particularly from the religious parties. Both interior minister Aryeh Deri and United Torah Judaism MK Avraham Ravitz have come out publicly against gambling. The National Religious Party's Shaul Yahalom was the only member of the sports committee to approve horse betting. Although Jewish law does not pose any serious obstacles to gambling, the religious parties are concerned with undesirable offshoots like prostitution, drugs and crime.

Other government officials have been hesitant because of the crime and morality factors and out of concern for compulsive gamblers and their families. "In the past the government has been very conservative and cautious," says Goldman. "Now it is time to move forward."

This year it seems like members of the Labor government are preparing to make such a move. "Judge Cohen figured out a way to avoid problems like drugs and prostitution in casinos," said Baram on television last month. "There will be a casino in Israel. There must be a casino in Israel. Tourism demands it and the only question left is how the government will handle its supervision." (WZPS)

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לשנה טובה תכתבו

Canadian volunteers return to Israel...

By LEORA FRUCHT

On July 23, 1948, David Panar of Edmonton got an unforgettable birthday present: he witnessed the successful takeoff of Israel's first home-built fighter plane.

The Canadian engineering expert had been recruited to help turn a collection of spare parts and scrap metal into a fully functioning aircraft. Forty-five years later, the now-retired University of Alberta professor returned to Israel to celebrate the feat.

Panar was one of the Canadian participants at the recent reunion of Volunteers from Abroad — the more than 3,000 men and women from 29 countries who rallied to Israel's aid during the War of Independence. The foreign volunteers, known in Hebrew by the acronym Machal, were lauded by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin during the dedication of a memorial to the more than 100 Machal fighters killed in the war. Among the victims were 11 Canadians, including three non-Jewish volunteers.

In all, approximately 250 Canadians joined the struggle for a Jewish state. Some settled in Israel after the war. Most returned to Canada. The reunion brought hundreds of volunteers back to Israel to celebrate the country's 45th Independence Day and to remember their own small part in the birth of the Jewish state.

Panar, now 74, was one of those volunteers. The Saskatoon-born Jew had been trained to work with British aircraft engines during World War II. He was teaching engineering at the University of Alberta when he was recruited for the fledgling Israel Air Force.

In the third week of May 1948, Israel had shot down an Egyptian-flown British Spitfire. The Israelis hoped that Panar, with his experience in British aircraft, could help repair the downed plane, thus providing Israel with its first Spitfire.

"I took one look at it," recalls Panar, "and explained to them that there's no way that I could repair it and that it could not be flown without spare parts. 'Ah, but we have lots of spare parts,' the Israelis said."

Panar was taken on a tour of the country's airfields. The British had destroyed all their aircraft before pulling out of mandatory Palestine. But they hadn't used the same method of demolition in every airfield. "We were able to salvage parts of the destroyed planes," says Panar. "If they had chopped one wing, we got a wing from another field. If they had broken the propeller, we retrieved a blade from another airfield."

With this motley collection, the Israelis set out to assemble a Spitfire of their own.

"They couldn't decide whether the plane should be designed for fighting or for photo-reconnaisance," says Panar, who served as a technical consultant on the project. "The wings had been taken from two different fighter planes and the body from a photo-reconnaisance aircraft. In the end, it was a classic case of Israeli compromise: they made a plane that could do both — take pictures and fight!"

The plane was assembled under camouflage at a base near Herzliyah. There were no test facilities, and the finished aircraft was missing several components. Panar recalls watching in trepidation as the pilot prepared to fly the hybrid creation for the first time. "The entire assembly crew literally jumped for joy when it got off the ground," he says. "I don't think any air force had ever accomplished such a feat."

For the nascent Israel air force, the plane turned out to be especially valuable for photo-reconnaisance. Since the Israelis did not yet have any Spitfires, the Egyptians thought the plane was one of their own. It was able to fly over Egyptian lines with impunity. "Our aircraft would crisscross all of Egypt, taking photographs, without ever arousing any suspicions."

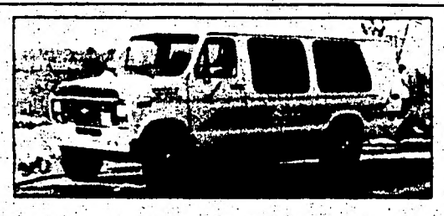
At last month's festive reunion, Panar saw again one of the supporters of the aircraft project, Ezer Weizman, now president of Israel. It was a gratifying moment for the Edmonton resident, who still has a photograph of himself together with Weizman, the two of them standing next to Israel's first home-built fighter plane.

In 1948, Gerry Rosenberg also decided to put his World War II experience to use in what was then Palestine. The native of Hamilton, Ont., had served in communications in the Royal Canadian Navy and became restless after the end of the war.

"I told my parents I was going to New York for the weekend," he laughs. Within a week, Rosenberg was at a training camp in the south of France where he was supplied with false documents. "I was a Dutch economist returning to my home in Haifa."

Upon arriving in Haifa in March, 1948, the ship's passengers had to pass through a receiving line of British army officers. "Of the thousand people aboard our ship, there were no more than a handful with proper papers," says Rosenberg. "But the British stamped our documents

[Cont'd. on page 59]



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לשנה טובה תכתבו

...to mark their contribution to '48 war

[Cont'd. from page 58]

without asking any questions." The only awkward moment came when the passengers passed a small man sitting at the end of the line. "He looked at us and asked in Yiddish, 'So, tell me now, what is your REAL name?' " recalls Rosenberg with a grin. "To this day I'm not entirely sure who he was."

Rosenberg spent the first part of his service in Israel as a member of an all-Canadian platoon within the 52nd Regiment of the Givati infantry brigade. A number of his missions involved securing Arab villages used as bases to shoot at Jewish towns. After several missions, the all-Canadian platoon was broken up. "They were worried about too many Canadians getting killed in a single action. In fact," says Rosenberg, "about 10 days after the platoon was disbanded, the unit fought a battle and lost many men, including our former commander, the Hungarian-born Yosef Horowitz."

Rosenberg, with his World War II naval experience, was then transferred to the Wedgewood, the flagship of the Israeli navy. It was there that he was involved in what is still one of the most controversial episodes in Israeli history: the destruction of the Altalena, the ship of the Etzel underground movement led by Menachem Begin.

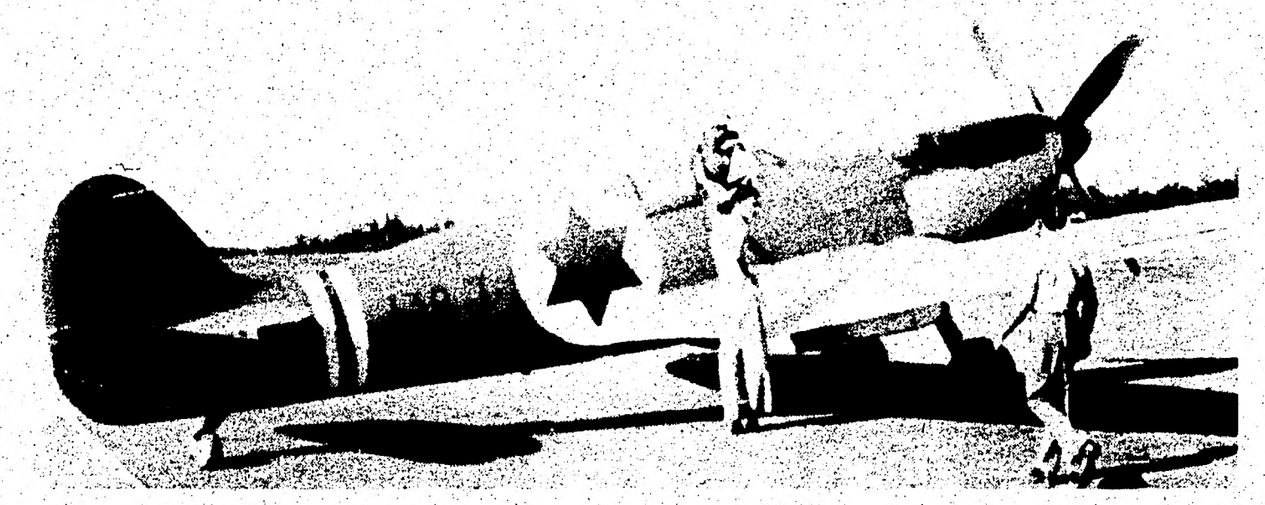
The Altalena was carrying arms, Etzel fighters and hundreds of Holocaust survivors when it arrived off the shores of Kfar Vitkin in June 1948 during the first truce of the war. A controversy broke out between Etzel headquarters and the Israeli government over the distribution of the ship's arms. Prime Minister David Ben Gurion later said he feared that Etzel was planning a mutiny against his government.

Rosenberg was on board the Wedgewood when his ship was ordered to prevent the Altalena from landing. "We moved up and down the coast while the Altalena tried unsuccessfully to unload. At dusk, bullets started flying towards us. So we returned fire. Only three days later did we learn that the bullets had been fired by the army to prevent the Altalena from unloading. The bullets flew over the ship and came towards us. We thought they had been fired by the Altalena.

"After the shooting, the Altalena headed back out to sea. Using light signals, I asked them if they had any wounded and whether they needed any help. They swore at us. Then they began approaching the shore of Tel Aviv. I signalled them again, this time ordering them to anchor one mile off the coast. They ignored the order and fired a couple of shots. Then they headed to the beach as close to military headquarters as they could."

Ship fired upon

The ship was fired upon by the Israeli army. It burst into flames, leaving 82 dead, and most of the arms



destroyed. To this day, the incident is one of the most painful and hotly debated chapters of the war.

Rosenberg's conclusions are unequivocal. "I believed then and I still do believe that the Altalena was attempting a coup. The nerve centre of the government was situated on the beach at Tel Aviv and that is precisely where they were headed. I don't blame Ben Gurion for ordering the army to shoot.

"If the ship had anchored off the coast, as it had been ordered to do, there would never have been any casualties."

But Rosenberg admits that "Etzel members will argue just as vehemently that the attack was unprovoked.

"It was a sad period in history. And we lost a lot of badly needed arms," says the 70-year-old Toronto resident.

While the majority of Canadian volunteers were Jewish, there were a number of gentiles who joined the effort as well. Their greatest impact was felt in the Israeli Air Force, where they accounted for 15 out of 20 Canadian pilots. (Canada provided Israel with more pilots than any country except the United States and South Africa.) Each of the pilots was an experienced World War II veteran. Some, such as George "Buzz" Beurling of Verdun, Que., had been ace flyers in the Royal Canadian Air Force. Michael Finegood, a Winnipeg-born Jew who was studying at the University of British Columbia, recruited many of the non-Jewish air force volunteers from western Canada.

"A lot of the gentiles who helped us were idealists," says Finegood, who now lives in California. "Some of them were Irish — they had their own bone to pick with the British. Others felt the Jews hadn't been given a fair break. There were those who had been to the displaced persons camps in Europe. Maybe they were trying to compensate for the neglect of other Christians. At least that is the feeling I had."

Finegood had spent five years as an airborne radar officer with the Royal Canadian Air Force. He used his World War II contacts to recruit pilots and other aircrewmen for the Jewish state. "I contacted one auxiliary squadron in Vancouver and damned near wiped it out!"

Finegood also got John McElroy, one of the RCAF's best fighter pilots, to help recruit. He provided him with a rented car and stipend and "turned him loose." McElroy, who had commanded a fighter squadron in Europe, contacted everyone in his squadron.

The recruitment was carried out clandestinely. "There was an Order in Council against recruiting for foreign states," explains Finegood. "If the order was invoked then all of us could have been jailed."

[Cont'd. on page 63]

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לשנה טובה תכתבו

Jerusalem's planners strive to preserve the past

By SIMON GRIVER

Jerusalem's rich history makes its municipal planners extremely sensitive to architectural preservation and restoration. Consequenty, the Nahlat Shiva neighborhood in downtown Jerusalem, which had degenerated into a crumbling, ugly example of urban blight was renovated into a warren of alleyways and thoroughfares frequented by tourists and residents alike.

The stone-faced buildings now house shops with an emphasis on arts and crafts and an array of cafes and restaurants that reflect the city's cosmopolitan composition.

Yitzhak Yaacovy, director-general of the East Jerusalem Development Corporation, which is owned by the ministry of tourism and the Jerusalem Municipality, specializes in restoration projects. He recalls that it was visitors to the city who first suggested preserving Nahlat Shiva. "They told us we would be crazy to knock it down," he recounts, "and that if rehabilitated it could become an attractive, vibrant quarter, while anything we could build in its place would be far more expensive and much less attractive."

Though downtown Jerusalem is sometimes referred to as the New City, in contrast to the Old City which was established nearly 3,000 years ago, Nahlat Shiva was actually built in 1869. It was the third settlement outside the walled city, but the first to be established by the residents themselves rather than outside benefactors.

Nahlat Shiva, which means settlement of the seven in Hebrew, was established by seven prominent Jewish families who wished to leave the poverty, squalor and overcrowded conditions of the Old City. The neighborhood was built with modest means and initially consisted of typically simple, Arab-style stone dwellings with domed roofs arranged around communal courtyards.

By 1896, when 160 families lived in the neighborhood, many of the houses were built using the European method of cement, and had adopted Mediterranean architectural verandas and red tiled roofs. The

Bird's-eye view of restored Nahlat Shiva neighborhood in Jerusalem.

quarter prospered at the turn of the century, as the city spread westward.

However, during the British Mandate period, most of the residents moved further out of town to the suburbs, leaving Nahlat Shiva to become a centre for carpentry and metal workshops. In 1930 the British issued a plan calling for the neighborhood's destruction. The Israeli authorities who took over in 1948 accepted the plan, and it was not revoked until 1988, when the municipality resolved to renovate.

An investment of $2 milion was made in restoring the facades and roofs of the building, as well as installing basic drainage and sewage infrastructure, underground electricity, and telephone cables. Esthetic additions such as arched entranceways, verandas with black metal railings, street lighting, and stylized commercial signs were made, and the streets were converted into pedestrian-only malls.

Restoration architects borrowed styles from southern Spain when planting the renovations. This is appropriate considering that many of the families who founded Nahalat Shiva came to Jerusalem after being expelled from Spain in 1492. So while the architecture is distinctly Jerusalem, the neighborhood is in many ways similar to Cordoba, Seville and Granada.

An evening stroll around Nahlat Shiva confirms Yaacovy's assertion that the project has succeeded. Custom is brisk at the sidewalk cafes, and the stores are filled with shoppers both browsing and buying. The 19th century buildings enhance an atmosphere that is leisurely, informal and intimate.

[Jerusalem Dateline]

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Israel Festival draws artists from around the world

By LILI EYLON

"Warning! This show is a high-speed roller-coaster type condensation of all of Shakespeare's plays, and is not recommended for people with heart ailments, bladder problems, inner-ear disorders, and/or people inclined to motion sickness. The Reduced Shakespeare Company cannot be held responsible for expectant mothers." Thus a troupe from Los Angeles, which presents 37 Shakespeare plays and 154 sonnets in less than two hours promotes itself.

The witty show was one of 53 performances which were held at the 1993 Israel Festival in Jerusalem — a colossal concoction of music, theatre, dance and special events brought to Israel's capital by artists from every continent. Thousands of spectators viewed the many shows held at various Jerusalem venues between May 26 and June 17.

The Festival opened with a world premiere by the noted Israeli Batsheva Dance Company choreographed to the music of Johann Strauss. Other performances included the Cullberg Ballet from Sweden, with an original modern version of *Giselle*; the Philippe Genty Company of France, which brought a mixture of dance, mime, illusion and drama; and Canada's O Vertigo Dance group, which offered a piece called *White Room* — a work filled with emotion, humor, seriousness and sensitivity, examining complex human relationships and the fine line between violence and embrace, slaps and cares.

Visual jazz concert held

As part of a worldwide tribute to Carlo Goldoni on the 200th anniversary of his death, the Festival presented, in Hebrew, *The Good Mother*, his comedy about mothers and daughters, lust and adultery. The Serapions Theatre from Austria brought *Wi Monimi*, a poetic theatrical rendition of man's fate in society. A visual jazz concert in homage to Jean Cocteau was another Austrian contribution.

Musical offerings included: a Bach marathon of organ music held at the Dormition Abbey on Jerusalem's Mt. Zion; violinist Pinchas Zukerman performing with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra; Manhattan Transfer; the popular Greek composer/performer Mikis Theodorakis; the Cleveland Quartet and the Cantilena Piano Quartet.

Ein Kerem, one of the most picturesque areas of Jerusalem, was transformed into a medieval town for three days, hosting in its churches and courtyards ensembles specializing in music of the 10th to 15th centuries.

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The Galilee Experience enables visitors to experience biblical history.

Christian couple gets new life promoting tourism in Israel

By AVA CARMEL

The lights go out in the plush 200-seat auditorium and the slide-show begins, transporting us back 4,000 years to the time of the patriach Abraham. God promises him "The who land of Canaan ... I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descedants..." (Gen. 17:8)

The 36-minute show proceeds to unravel the history of this wondrous land, stressing the fact that so many of its major events occurred in Galilee. On a nine-metre screen, images from 27 projectors are conjured up. The photographs, many by Israel's top aerial and nature photographers, are exquisite.

Deborah prophesies Barak's victory over the Canaanites at Mount Tabor. King Saul's final battle is fought at Mount Giboa. Jesus of Nazareth gives his Sermon on the Mount of Beatitudes. The miracle of the loaves and fishes occurs at Tabgha, by the Sea of Galilee. The Romans defeat the Jews at Gamla. After the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem, Galilee becomes the centre of rabbinic life in Israel. The Crusaders conquer and the Muslims reconquer Galilee. Napoleon sends his troops to fight against the Turks. Galilee falls to ruin and is rebuilt by returning Zionists.

Eric Morey, initiator of the show, is originally from Denver, Colorado. While living in San Francisco he met his future wife, Terry. She was planning to move to Israel, and in 1983, Morey, who had just returned from a church tour of the Holy Land, agreed that they would go for a period of a year.

"God has a plan for each of our lives," says Morey. "I decided that if, after a year, I felt this was what He had planned for my life, we would stay here. If not, Terry agreed to go wherever I wanted. But the year went by and I never looked back."

Morey fell in love with the Galilee and tried to find work in the tourism industry. "I realized that there is a vast number of American Christians who have never been to Israel. I wanted to create something entertaining, informational and inspirational for them."

Putting together his various talents to create Galilee Experience was a challenge for Morey, a history buff and a professional photographer with experience in multi-image shows. Morey stresses that there were a number of things he felt it was important to include. "The show tells of the homeland of the Jewish people, which goes all the way back to Abraham. I personally believe that the amazing miracle of their return is a fulfillment of many Old Testament prophecies. I want Christian visitors who come here to know that."

[Jerusalem Dateline]

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לשנה טובה תכתבו

Canadians served in Israel Air Force

[Cont'd. from page 59]

Finegood knew his phone was tapped. Anyone calling about the recruitment was instructed to ask about joining the "ski club." Finegood would then return the call from a pay phone. One day the media caught on. A banner headline in British Columbia's *The Province* discovered the recruitment drive.

"We thought it would be the end of the operation," he says. "When I went home that day, I crept into my house through a back alley. I was sure the RCMP would be waiting for me. I went straight to the basement and burned every piece of paper."

But nothing happened. After a two-week lull, the recruiters resumed their efforts. "By then we were better organized and able to offer $600 to the gentiles who volunteered. It wasn't the kind of sum that attracted mercenaries, but at least it was something. The Jewish volunteers got only $21."

The other difference was that gentiles got a $10,000 life insurance policy. "I paid that out twice," recalls Finegood sadly. "For Leonard Fitchett and Fred Stevenson." Jewish volunteers got no life insurance.

Both Fitchett and Stevenson are buried in Haifa's military cemetery. So is Beurling, who was killed when his plane caught fire during a practice takeoff near Rome. Sabotage was suspected, but never proven.

Another gentile volunteer from Canada, Brian Wygle, went on to become the vice president of Boeing. "He was a real idealist," recalls Finegood. "He volunteered even though he had a wife and baby."

In all, 41 Canadians served in the Israel Air Force during the War of Independence. Nearly 70 percent of the entire air force and 80 percent of its pilots consisted of foreign volunteers. They were considered a particularly vital part of the Machal effort. "The Machal air force volunteers didn't win the war, but they kept it from being lost in the first two weeks," says Finegood.

NOTE: Many of the figures quoted in this article were supplied by Eddy Kaplansky, a Machal volunteer and former Israeli Air Force pilot, who was born in Montreal and lives in Haifa.

Exhibition to celebrate Jerusalem's 3,000th year

By LILI EYLON

How often does one celebrate a 3,000th anniversary? One such event will be celebrated in Israel and abroad within the next few years.

While the exact date is unknown and there may be some controversy over it, most historians and archeologists agree that King David captured Jerusalem in 1004 BCE. Mentioned in ancient scriptures 300 years earlier, Jerusalem was then a small, fortified Jebusite town located between Israel and Judah. The capture of the city signalled the unification of two kingdoms.

Three thousand years later, the dream of Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek is about to be realized: the capital of the State of Israel will celebrate its 3,000th birthday with a bang, pomp and circumstance.

"We are celebrating something truly unique," says Karl Katz, a curator of the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art, who is on Kollek's committee of foreign advisors for the anniversary event. "No other city has made such an impact on Western civilization."

Most of the jubilation will take place during 1996, but plans call for special worldwide events to begin as soon as 1994. A huge travelling exhibit, focusing on the history of Jerusalem, will tour some 12-15 major cities on all continents. Ari Rath, co-ordinator of the anniversary celebrations, says the exhibit will be totally self-contained, so that it can be set up in outdoor areas of museums and other public places. Within this framework, live entertainers will perform for the visitors.

Jerusalem itself will be the scene of many and varied celebrations. By 1996 the excavations of the City of David will have been completed and an amphitheatre for performances on the premises restored.

Dramatic illustrations of how people lived in the time of King David will be shown in the courtyard of David's Tower, which can hold some 1,500 people. The Israel Museum will have an entire wing dedicated to art inspired by King David. As for music, so dear to the lyre-playing king, four major festivals are being planned, including a special Liturgica, an annual Christmas tradition in Jerusalem.

International conferences in the literary world will deal with topics related to the legendary king — law, Judaica, morality, and politics — as well as with the figure of King David himself. An international conference of urban planners will tackle the following problem shared by many cities around the world: How do ancient historical cities function in modern times?

Adopt-A-Student program

Gethan Tizazu, 42, is currently the only Ethiopian student studying for a master's degree in English at the Hebrew University. He has been able to pursue his studies thanks to the generosity of the family of 100-year-old Julius Croland of Los Angeles, and the Vidal Sassoon Adopt-A-Student Program of the North American Conference on Ethiopian Jewry (NACOEJ).

Gethun was born in the Ethiopia's Gondar region, where many Ethiopian Jews lived in villages, but spent several years in the capital, Addis Ababa, and nearby areas. As a high school student he came in contact with American Peace Corps volunteers living near his village. This contact inspired his passion for reading and writing English. He went on to study it in college, then taught in and around Addis Ababa for almost 10 years.

Before leaving for Israel in 1991 on Operation Solomon, Gethun began an MA program in English at Addis Ababa University. Gethun and his family virtually dropped everything when they left Ethiopia. "I gave it all up to come to Israel. I had to immigrate because I am a Jew. The political situation was not at all conducive to me or to any future," he said. In Addis Ababa he had heard about NACOEJ its Vidal Sassoon Adopt-A-Student program to help Ethiopian students. Before leaving he made inquiries about receiving assistance from the organization to study in Israel.

After living in an absorption centre in Tiberias for a year, Gethun felt he was ready to once again pursue his studies. Now as a graduate student at the Hebrew University, he is impressed with the quality of education and resources, but has found it difficult to find financial support to enable him to study full-time.

Helping him is the aid he receives from the NACOEJ's Vidal Sassoon Adopt-A-Student program. According to Gethun, his sponsor Julius Croland, whose family "adopted" Gethun in honor of Croland's 100th birthday — has been an inspiration and a great supporter. One day Gethun hopes to meet Croland. For the time being, he is determined to get his degree.

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לשנה טובה תכתבו

Film provides stimulating look into Israel's past

By SHELDON KIRSHNER

They were as idealistic as driven snow.

They were not only Socialists, Zionists and feminists, but sturdy pioneers who yearned to build a Jewish state in Palestine.

Edna Politi's documentary, *Anou Banou: The Daughters of Utopia*, highlights six of these formidable women. In her film, which was screened at the Toronto Jewish Film Festival, they speak of their hopes, dreams and struggles in a harsh land where sexism prevailed.

Anou Banou, whose title is taken from a popular song of the day, is composed of on-camera interviews and quaint archival footage of hardy road builders, farmers and construction workers.

It is an inquiring, often stimulating look into Israel's past.

The women in question were rebels with a cause. "We were rebelling against our bourgeois parents," says one. But, of course, there was more to it than that. European anti-Semitism, as well as idealism, were factors in their decision to leave the comfort of their homes for the uncertainties of the Jewish homeland.

Life in Palestine in the 1920s was unrelentingly hard. People succumbed to malaria. Some, in despair, committed suicide.

Yet they persevered. They built roads through desolate deserts. They drained malarial swamps. The country desperately needed young, spirited Jews, and they responded to the call.

Those women drawn to kibbutzim were often disillusioned because they were automatically channelled into kitchen work or child care. They hungered for equality, but were denied it by their myopic male counterparts.

Still, they never gave up. As one of their songs put it:

Instead of yesterday,
We have a tomorrow.

Interestingly enough, they practised sexual abstinence until marriage, being of the opinion that it strengthened character. Often, the inner tension was unbearable, while the atmosphere was emotionally charged.

Unlike some Zionists, they did not believe that Palestine was an empty land. They understood that it was inhabited by many more Arabs than Jews. And while they were not prejudiced against Arabs, they had no desire to integrate into the Arab community. They wanted to establish a self-sustaining Jewish community.

Jewish pioneers in Palestine.

Some even imagined turning the country into one big kibbutz.

One woman recalls, with obvious pain, the departure of her friends to the Soviet Union. She never saw them again. They perished in the Stalinist purges.

Politi asked them to comment on present-day Israel.

Even today, we learn, gender equality is more of a high-minded goal than an accepted reality.

Kibbutzim, they claim, still steer women into the kitchen and the children's house. On one kibbutz, women had to fight for the right to work in the fields and in the stable.

Yet another woman regrets that Israel is not "more socialistic." However, she finds solace in the fact that a Jewish state exists. A third woman is unsettled by Israel's occupation of the West Bank and the policy of building settlements there.

Anou Banou, though ponderous at times, is an uplifting cinematic document. The pioneers speak eloquently, and we listen intently.

Are they the last of a breed? Hopefully not.

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